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WEST SHOULD STOP 'NUMBERS GAME', MOVE TO SERIOUS MATTERS

LD121257Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[S. Vishnevskiy article: "What Lies Behind the 'Numbers Game', NATO's Manipulations at the Vienna Talks"]

[Text] There is something symbolic about the fact that the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe are now being held in the former imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna where in the past plans for waging war were prepared.

The Warsaw Pact's declaration adopted 23 November at the Political Consultative Committee conference in Moscow expresses determination to seek implementation of effective measures aimed at lessening military confrontation and promoting disarmament and designed to supplement political detente with military detente and to strengthen European security. The socialist states reaffirm that they are striving in every possible way to contribute to the success of the Vienna talks.

Back on 8 June, the Soviet Union and the other socialist states took a major step by offering the Western partners a reasonable, realistic compromise making it possible to achieve resolute progress at the talks. The adoption of this initiative would have insured equal, reduced collective levels of Warsaw Pact and NATO armed forces in central Europe--900,000 men each, including 700,000 ground forces each.

This action of state wisdom evoked hopes everywhere of the speediest attainment of a mutually acceptable accord. The validity of these hopes was publicly acknowledged even by the NATO leaders. U.S. President J. Carter characterized the socialist countries' proposals as a "quite specific step in the right direction." FRG Federal Chancellor H. Schmidt called them a "significant basis for achieving the aim of the Vienna talks."

Another manifestation of the socialist states' good will was their 30 November proposal that the numerical strength of the participating states' armed forces not be increased during the time of the Vienna talks. This accord would be based on collective (within the framework of the two military groupings) or individual commitments.

An unprejudiced observer can appreciate from these and the many other Warsaw Pact initiatives that socialist diplomacy at the Vienna talks invariably displays a constructive approach and a readiness to discuss the serious problems without any "taboo topics."

Just what is heard in response to the socialist countries' important initiatives? A practiced, automatic "no." Without submitting any specific proposals on questions of military detente, the West has once again brought into play the tactics of delay and procrastination which deadlocked the talks for many years. One of the main devices of this tactic is the importunate demand for "elimination of the disproportions" which supposedly exist in the balance of forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Official data from the sides testifying that approximate equilibrium between the armed forces prevails in the center of Europe have been lying on the negotiating table for more than 2 years now. As of 1 January 1976 the NATO forces there numbered 981,000 men while the socialist forces numbered 987,300. And here, unlike the NATO countries, the Soviet Union and the other socialist states have not increased their armed forces in this region for a long time.

Of course, when discussing the criteria of military equality, you cannot confine yourself to mechanical addition of categories of troops. For instance, the West alleges that we have a superiority in tanks, but here it "fails to notice" that unlike the NATO countries, the Warsaw Pact countries do not pack their battle formations with tactical nuclear facilities and do not nurture plans for including in their arsenals new types of weapons of mass destruction such as neutron warheads.

It is indisputable that West Europe is one of the zones most packed with highways, pipelines and communications system. The Western representatives do not dispute this. They act differently: They pass over this fact in silence and emphasize the "shorter Soviet lines of communication" as one more advantage possessed by the USSR for which "compensations" can be demanded.

The approximate equilibrium between the forces in central Europe is recognized by many foreign statesmen, military leaders and experts. "Competent Western specialists," West German General Krause notes, "agree that, despite differences in individual spheres, in general military equilibrium exists between the two groupings." Italian Senator Nino Pasti, in the past NATO deputy supreme allied commander Europe, makes the same assessment.

It is noteworthy that the working documents of North Atlantic bloc organs intended for a narrow circle of strategists and specialists by no means dispute the fact of the military parity in the center of the European Continent. I saw this for myself last May at the Washington NATO Council session where journalists were acquainted with a large package of publications from NATO headquarters. Thus, an article by General Gundersen, chairman of the bloc's military committee, in NATO REVIEW--the North Atlantic bloc's official organ--says clearly: "In the last few years there have been no dramatic increases in the size of the Warsaw Pact's armed forces."

However, the Western mass media regularly repeats the myth of the "military superiority" of the Warsaw Pact's armed forces and of the so-called "disproportions". Just what is the source of the "disproportions" fairytale?

It all began with unsubstantiated accusations against the socialist community. Without taking the trouble to provide any reasoning, militant champions of cold war kept on about "superiority". There was much emotion but this alone was still not enough to intimidate the population of the Atlantic region and to make people tolerate militarist acts of sabotage against detente. "Numbers" were needed.

And so manipulated figures in the form of statistical calculations poured down as though from a horn of plenty.... On the basis of the remarks of their mentors in the CIA, Washington "hawks" R. Evans and R. Novak wrote: "Communist forces exceed NATO forces in terms of numerical strength by approximately 175,000 men." Misinformers with still more fervid imaginations increased the "figures" to 200,000.

Commentators not bereft of a sense of humor dubbed all this the "numbers game": The heap of contradictory figures spread in various directions, a picture of incredible confusion emerged, evoking ironical smiles.

Therefore in 1973 the NATO countries carried out a hasty "standardization" of misinformation, erasing the difference between American and West European statistics, which came to 100,000 men. "Unified data" emerged: approximately 150,000 men. This, they said, was the Warsaw Pact forces' superiority.

But 150,000 servicemen is not a platoon or a company. How did the NATOites discover them in one of the world's most densely populated areas? The silver-tongued Western diplomats whose job it is to defend the "superiority" fairytale suddenly lose their power of speech when this theme is broached in earnest. There is an element of uncertainty and indecision in their voices. Take the Dutch delegate's speech, for example: "We would like to know the reason for the numerical discrepancy. Perhaps there are covert explanations of which we have not been informed." In short, by not arguing their figures the NATO diplomats are not insisting categorically on their authenticity and are confusing matters.

The fantastic fairytale about 150,000 men was surely the work of the selfsame imperialist special services which have repeatedly been caught in the act of blatantly juggling and falsifying facts. It was they who concocted, at the height of the cold war, the big lie about the U.S. "missile and bomber gap" so as to fan military hysteria. After a whole series of exposures they continue to engage in the same old unsavory business of misinformation. In a piece of research entitled "The Dubious Specter. A New View of the 'Soviet Danger'" Fred Kaplan, an American scholar and expert on military problems, uses facts to show that cock-and-bull stories about "superiority" are invariably "either utterly exaggerated or false."

In recent years L. Aspin, R. Carr, T. Downey and other U.S. congressmen have repeatedly exposed the militarist tricksters distributing their "distorted, misleading and intellectually dishonest" comparative analyses of the military potentials of the USSR and the United States.

Recently the West German magazine DER SPEIGEL, citing the FRG Defense Ministry leadership, accused NATO headquarters and General A. Haig, supreme allied commander Europe, personally of deliberately fabricating "panic reports about the Soviet threat." Even experts at the Bonn military department expressed "doubts about the military's numbers game"--nor is it by any means a harmless game; it is a policy, an expression of a definite and dangerous course in international affairs. It was noticed long ago that falsified figures are placed on the negotiating table whenever "Atlantic" officials want to avoid just criticism.

What lies behind the figure-juggling is the NATOites' desire to sidestep the fundamental principle of the sides' equal security to secure one-sided advantages. And the goal of the present period of this game is to accelerate implementation of the NATO Council's decisions aimed at destabilizing the European situation.

The stake on superiority is not speculative; it is the spirit and letter of official statements by NATO states, including during the recent "Atlantic week." These statements confirm the long-term course toward building up the North Atlantic bloc's military potential, creating ever more devastating weapons systems and increasing armed forces personnel, particularly by means of perfecting the rapid airlift of large contingents of U.S. forces across the Atlantic. The advocates of this course find it tempting to try to shake or sidestep the principle of undiminished security at the Vienna talks by means of so-called "asymmetrical reductions."

Frankly, these expectations are senseless and futile. This must be obvious to any sensible politician. A. Pawelczyk, a leading FRG Bundestag expert on disarmament, sensibly advises stopping the "numbers game" and getting down to serious matters--lowering the level of military confrontation in the center of our continent on the basis of the prevailing equilibrium of forces and formulating criteria for equal security.

The NATO sides' building of artificial barriers on the path to a mutual accord in Vienna has already meant that years have been lost. But time will not wait. Life demands a decisive breakthrough at the talks in the Hofburg Palace. This requires a constructive and realistic approach to them by the Western side.

WEST'S ARMS BUILDUP AS REACTION TO EAST'S CALL 'ABNORMAL'

LD121846Y Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

["What's Hampering Progress?"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--TASS political commentator Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

A national conference of the ruling Democratic Party of the United States has ended at Memphis, USA. Touched at the conference, among other problems, was the question of the Vienna talks on mutual reduction of armaments and armed forces in central Europe. The delegates went on record for accelerating progress at the negotiations. This stand could have been welcomed, if the Memphis conference went further and named those who are really to blame for the fact that the important Vienna discussions are still marking time.

It is pertinent to add that in the concluding communique issued by the recent NATO Council session in Brussels the foreign ministers of this alignment also went on record for a successful completion of the Vienna talks. What is wrong then? What's hampering progress?

Perfectly well-known are the huge efforts exerted by the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist nations to consolidate international peace and security. Precisely this is characteristic of the behaviour of the socialist nations at the negotiations in the Austrian capital. A new major effort, which has the purpose of achieving decisive progress in Vienna, was their proposal of June 8, 1978. It covers the entire complex of the discussed problems and guarantees equality of the armed forces of both sides within the reduction area along with a substantial cut of their levels as compared to the present ones.

This step of the socialist states offered broader possibilities for taking compromise decisions, paved the way to the drawing up of an agreement. Only a positive reply of the West is henceforth required, a reply taking into account the interests of the socialist states in the same measure as the latter have reckoned with the interests of the Western side.

However, it is precisely the Western participants that are dodging a concrete discussion, are constantly dragging out and complicating the negotiations in every possible way. Artificially created is the question of the numerical strength of the armed forces: Groundless claims are being advanced concerning the alleged substantial superiority of the Warsaw Treaty countries' ground forces. Although the submitted exact figures show clearly that there is equality between the two sides, the above-mentioned communique of the NATO Council session in Brussels again speaks of the "need to verify the data" and the outcome of the negotiations is actually being hinged on this.

At a regular plenary meeting in the Vienna Hofburg Palace on November 30th the socialist states advanced new important supplements to their proposal not to increase the numerical strength of the armed forces of each state directly taking part in the Vienna negotiations as long as the latter continue. And again the West's official reaction is so far unknown.

Instead of a concrete, constructive reply, dangerous speeches were delivered at the Brussels NATO session about forthcoming fresh increases of the national military budgets, which are inflated as it is, purchases of new arms, modernization and enhancement of the military potential of NATO partners.

Is it possible to regard as normal a situation when the West reacts to a whole set of the East's peace proposals by adopting a huge longterm arms race program, envisaging the spending of an additional 80,000 million dollars on NATO war preparations?

Is it normal that immediately after the statement issued by the participants of the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty nations that there was no weapon which they were not prepared to limit or reduce without damage to the security of all sides, calls have resounded from Brussels to increase all types of weapons in the arsenals of the Western bloc?

It is by no means difficult to see what and who are hampering the acceleration of progress at the Vienna negotiations, which are important for the cause of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

MONTREUX CONFERENCE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ENDS

LD122246Y Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, December 12, TASS--A six week conference on elaborating a generally acceptable method for a peaceful settlement of international disputes has closed in the Swiss town of Montreux. It was convened in conformity with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the decision of the Belgrade meeting. It was attended by representatives of all the 35 countries, which participated in the all-European conference.

The discussions at the Montreux conference centered on the working document tabled by the Soviet Union, the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia. It contains a proposal on mandatory consultations as a generally acceptable method for a peaceful settlement of international disputes complementing the already existing methods. The proposal is based on the provisions of the U.N. Charter, the Final Act of the all-European conference, on the generally accepted international practices and procedes from the necessity of developing and deepening international detente.

The proposal of the socialist countries is reflected in the final report accepted by the experts, as a result of which conditions have been created for its subsequent examination. The report also recommends that the participating countries examine at the forthcoming meeting in Madrid opportunities for the convocation of a new meeting of experts for continuing this work.

WARSAW PACT CALL 'CONSISTENCY INHERENT IN SOCIALIST POLICY'

Moscow NOVOSTI DAILY REVIEW in English 5 Dec 78 pp 1-3 WA

[Article by Spartak Beglov, NOVOSTI political commentator "Defence Cut A Step Forward Toward Mutual Disarmament"]

[Text] The declaration adopted several days ago in Moscow by the seven member-countries of the Warsaw Treaty says: "One of the most effective and practical ways to halting the arms race is to reduce military budgets, in the first place, the budgets of the states with great economic and military potentials. The socialist countries are prepared conclude an agreement to meet this major objective and reduce military budgets by equal parts or percentages or magnitudes of the same order. Their proposals to this end are being examined by the United Nations, particularly the proposal for freezing the military budgets at their present level and immediately beginning to reduce them."

So, anyone who is ignorant of this or counts on the ignorance of others, is faced with a self-evident fact concern for reductions in the defence budgets does not come from one country but reflects the common position of all the seven member-countries of the Warsaw Treaty. THERE IS NO TYPE OF ARMAMENTS WHICH THE SOCIALIST MEMBERS-STATES OF THE WARSAW TREATY WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO LIMIT OR REDUCE. Having reaffirmed this position, they also emphasised THE NEED STRICTLY TO OBSERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. They said they were prepared to study as thoroughly as possible the proposals of all other countries, including those grouped in NATO.

Judging by the atmosphere in which the NATO ministers conferences in Brussels take place, the NATO spring is still wound the wrong way. The NATO countries have given an undertaking to increase their military budgets by 3 per cent a year, while the Pentagon has planned record-high military allocations for 1979 and for the foreseeable future as well.

What is to be done? The Warsaw Treaty countries are patiently waiting for reciprocal measures. Moreover, they are sending new signals designed to produce a constructive response.

On November 30, that is a week after the completion of the Warsaw Treaty leaders' conference and a week before a session of the NATO Council, the Kremlin endorse a new Soviet budget for 1979. The Soviet defence expenditures under the new budget remained at the previous level of 17,200 million roubles. The Soviet military budget was at the same level in 1977 and at about the same level throughout the preceding years of the implementation of the Soviet Union's well-known peace programme.

This signal speaks better than words. Nevertheless, the top echelons in the West continue to make out as if they do not hear it. The NATO countries will have to work hard to catch up with the Soviet Union. It would be only just to be surprised at the East's restraint with regard to the mad arms race launched in the West: In 1979 the US military budget is to double the size of that country's military spending a decade ago, while the Soviet military expenditures reached a ceiling (17,900 million roubles) just in 1970 and have been falling ever since.

We have not added a single soldier or a single tank to the forces stationed in central Europe, Leonid Brezhnev has repeatedly stressed.

US senators who have recently visited Moscow have heard authoritative confirmations of what has been long stated by sober-minded experts in the West: The Soviet Union has never initiated arms race measures, but always had to react to new steps in US rearmaments, the level of these counter-measures was always kept within the reasonable requirements of modernization.

The West ignored also the proposals of the Warsaw Treaty countries at the Vienna talks, put forward six years ago, concerning the mutual freezing of the existent level of armed forces in the said region as long as talks are held. Each year this proposal was reiterated. But the leadership of the NATO headquarters is openly staking on new weapons systems and on the strengthening of its arsenals and armies. Under these conditions the Warsaw Treaty countries have to maintain their defence potentials at the appropriate level out of the elementary considerations of ensuring their security. As it has been stressed in the decision of the Soviet leading bodies in connection with the results of the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries, the Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that due to the NATO countries continuously stepped up arms race there is the necessity of preserving and strengthening the defence potential of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty states.

This is done by the countries of the socialist community as forced measures and in no way lessens their preparedness for taking practical disarmament actions. But disarmament is a mutual undertaking. Each action, no matter in what direction it is taken, must be reciprocal. In fact, every signal--as the manifestation of restraint and as a reminder of the inadmissibility of violating the present equilibrium--is aimed at making the other side understand that the arms race leads only to a blind alley.

Let us recall once again the facts of the recent past. In the autumn of 1973 the Soviet Union put forward the proposal on reducing the military budgets of the permanent members of the UN Security Council by ten percent and on using part of the funds thus saved for rendering aid to the developing countries. The UN General Assembly approved the Soviet proposal by an overwhelming majority and adopted a resolution envisaging the establishment of a special committee for its implementation. If there is no progress in this issue too, this is due to the sabotage on the part of the members of the Atlantic alliance.

At present the call of the Warsaw Treaty member-countries repeats this proposal on behalf of the whole alliance. This is consistency inherent in a truly socialist foreign policy.

In the light of the obvious priority of the socialist countries in signals and initiatives aimed at cutting military budgets it is logical to expect similar steps on the part of the West. NATO's West has long been avoiding reply measures.

PRAVDA REVIEW ON USSR-AFGHAN TIES, TRADE WITH U.S., CAMBODIA

LD121055Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Aleksandr Serbin international review: "The International Week"]

[Text] The past week's events testify that the determination of progressive and peace-loving forces to defend detente and peace against imperialist intriguese continues to strengthen.

The socialist community is a mighty factor for peace in the international arena. The declaration adopted at the end of November in Moscow by the Warsaw Pact Political Committee remains at the center of the world public's attention. It clearly determines the primary tasks whose implementation could contribute decisively to the organization of broad peaceful cooperation among peoples. The main precondition for further confident development of the detente process is unity on the part of all forces for progress and peace. The fraternal socialist countries express their firm desire to strengthen their comprehensive cooperation with one another and to consistently pursue the line of expanding cooperation with all progressive forces of our time.

Solidarity in Action

In its foreign policy the Soviet Union is consistently loyal to this line--as is vividly confirmed by the results of last week's visit to our country by N.M. Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

For Afghanistan the past year has been marked by a fundamental turning point in its historial development which ended the oppressive regime based on feudal survivals. The April revolution led the country onto a new path and proved once again that the cause of people's liberation is invincible in our era. Under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party, casting aside the fetters of the past, Afghans have embarked on the elimination of age-old backwardness, profound transformations on their homeland's soil and building a society devoid of exploitation of man by man. Soviet people welcome the Afghan people's victory. The Soviet Union was the first state to recognize the neighboring country's new democratic republican regime. And it is symbolic that the first foreign visit by the head of revolutionary Afghanistan was a trip to the homeland of October.

Neighborly relations based on friendship and equality have existed between the USSR and Afghanistan for almost 60 years. They were initiated by the great Lenin. Now, as a result of the changes which have taken place in Afghanistan, the traditional good relations between our countries have assumed a qualitatively different character. "Now there is not merely neighborliness," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said, welcoming the Afghan guests, "but profound, sincere and firm friendship permeated by the spirit of comradeliness and revolutionary solidarity." The strengthening of this friendship is promoted by the common approach to the most important international problems and to questions of relations between our countries, parties and peoples.

This new character of Soviet-Afghan relations had been embodied in the Friendship, Neighborliness and Cooperation Treaty signed between our countries during the visit. It is aimed at developing broad, all-embracing bilateral cooperation based on equality, respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference in one another's internal affairs and at the same time envisages cooperation with other peace-loving states in support of the people's just struggle for freedom and social progress. [paragraph continues]

Under the treaty the Soviet Union and Afghanistan adopted a commitment to make every effort to depend international peace and the peoples' security and to deepen the detente process and extend it to all regions of the world, including Asia.

The Soviet-Afghan joint communique notes that the talks and the accords reached during the visit are a substantial contribution to further developing the friendship, neighborliness and fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Soviet-Afghan treaty ranks with other important foreign policy documents of the last few months relating to the development of the Soviet Union's relations with foreign countries. Friendship and cooperation treaties with heroic Vietnam and revolutionary Ethiopia have also been signed in Moscow at summit level. Together with the conclusion of the treaty with Afghanistan these major political acts reflect the growing and strengthening solidarity of advanced forces defending the cause of the peoples' freedom and social progress.

By strengthening relations with our friends in the globe, these treaties give them confidence in their deeds and in the attainment of their just goals. On the other hand, they contribute to stability in the world by restricting the potential of those who would like to reverse history and to dictate their will to the peoples.

Two Policies

Two organizations designed to contribute to the development of trade and economic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States--the seventh session of the Soviet-American Commission on Trade and the sixth session of the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council--were at work in Moscow last week. U.S. Treasury Secretary M. Blumenthal and Commerce Secretary J. Kreps, other officials representing the U.S. administration and a large group of U.S. businessmen came to our capital to participate in the work.

As is well known, the state of Soviet-American trade is by no means brilliant. In the last few years it has not only failed to increase but has even decreased by 33 percent and continues to decrease. The American side is to blame for this. The discriminatory measures vis-a-vis the Soviet Union which have been adopted in the United States and which have been elevated to legal status prevent normal economic relations between the two major states of the world. It is no secret that these measures were introduced in an attempt to exert political pressure on our country, to dictate how it should behave in the international arena and to interfere in the Soviet Union's internal affairs. Of course, this was a futile attempt.

For its part the Soviet Union consistently advocates development of economic relations with the United States. However, we stress here that this must take place on clear and honest basic principles of equality and mutual advantage. The results of the work of the joint Soviet-American organizations can be regarded as a definite positive shift in resolving the tasks of expanding bilateral economic relations. Appropriate projects and plans have been drawn up on this score. But, as the American side was authoritatively told in Moscow, implementation of many will be difficult without the elimination of the discrimination against the Soviet Union in the United States on questions of trade and credits. The future will show how sincere the high-level statements now being made across the ocean favoring development of trade with our country are.

The great importance which the Soviet Union attaches to expanding business relations with the United States is conditioned, in addition to each side's economic interests, by the fact that these relations may be a reliable foundation on whose basis it would be easier to build successfully the complex edifice of Soviet-American relations as a whole and to strengthen mutual trust and mutual understanding. And this is exceptionally important. At the dinner marking the holding of the Moscow session of the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council, L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, said that "the peace, security and prosperity of both our countries' peoples and also peace throughout the world--that is, the life of hundreds of millions of people on earth--depend to a considerable extent on normal relations and mutual understanding between the USSR and the United States."

The Soviet Union and the socialist countries are doing everything to expand cooperation with other states in the interests of consolidating peace and security and deepening detente. They propose joint efforts to insure a decisive turn toward ending the arms race and toward disarmament, which is the key problem of present-day international life. In the past week, L.I. Brezhnev, describing the Soviet Union's position, said: "I repeat: We are ready for the most radical steps leading to disarmament. But at all stages of the struggle to achieve that aim the principle of equal security of the sides must be observed. We will not weaken our defense in the face of imperialism's growing military might, whatever demagogic arguments are used to cover appeals for this. This would have irreparable consequences for the cause of socialism and for the cause of the peoples' freedom and independence."

This position is all the more justified when the forces of imperialism and reaction, seeking to prevent the radical normalization of the international political climate, have become considerably more active. The past week was called "Atlantic" week in the West. Within its framework sessions of the so-called NATO Defense Planning Committee, with the participation of the war ministers of countries belonging to that aggressive alliance, and a NATO Council session at foreign ministers level took place in Brussels.

No secret was made of what the NATO figures were doing in Brussels. The press reported that their primary task was to "maintain the impetus" given by the Washington North Atlantic bloc session held at the highest level last May. It is known that at that time in the American capital a resolution was adopted on further developing the arms race in NATO countries, and in particular on an annual 3-percent increase in those states' military budgets.

To the accompaniment of old refrains about the "Soviet threat" the NATO bosses decided to "continue to allocate all the resources necessary to modernize and strengthen their armed forces' combat capability."

As was reported in NATO circles, the agenda for the North Atlantic Alliance Council session included the question of military and technical aid from the bloc to China--they have long been calling that country the "16th member of NATO". The West's dangerous policy of encouraging Peking's expansionist aspirations is becoming increasingly apparent.

Patriots Uniting

The Chinese leaders themselves are attaching themselves increasingly closely to the ranks of the North Atlantic bloc's bellicose strategists. Pursuing their expansionist, hegemonist aims, they are trying with all their might to build cooperation with imp imperialist reaction which is based on a struggle against the Soviet Union and other countries of socialism, against peace. In Southeast Asia the Peking leaders have chosen Kampuchea as the bridgehead for adventures aimed against Socialist Vietnam and as the center for implementing their great-power doctrine. Peking's policy in this respect and its henchmen's activity have condemned the Khmer people to great sufferings and sorrow.

The Kampuchean patriots made many sacrifices for the struggle for their motherland's freedom and independence. This was a part of the common struggle of Indochina's patriotic forces against imperialist aggression.

Victory came to the Khmer people in spring 1975, making it possible to restore the country and create a peaceful life. But the people were not given the legitimate right to enjoy its fruits. With Peking's support a narrow group of people seized power in Kampuchea. They practically isolated the country from the outside world and only maintained broad ties with China. The deeds of the Kampuchean rulers, which have been widely reported in the world press, appear improbable. They have introduced a barrack-line way of life for the entire people and have plunged the country into economic chaos. This is accompanied by mass murders which go unpunished. Those subject to reprisals include patriots and revolutionaries who fought for the motherland's independence.

In foreign policy the Kampuchean rulers embarked on the adventurist path of fueling tension in relations with Vietnam and then switched to blatant hostilities on the Vietnamese border.

The activity of the Kampuchean rulers would be incomprehensible if it were not for the Chinese leaders backing them. The practice of Maoism can clearly be discerned in the shameful "social experiments" being carried out on Khmer soil, and the anti-Vietnam position of the Phnom Penh leaders patently serves Peking's hegemonistic policy. Peking is striving to get a foothold in Kampuchea by supplying its henchmen with weapons and by dispatching an ever growing number of emissaries and various "advisers" and agents.

A movement against the antipopular ruling group and against the subordination of Kampuchea to Peking's interests has sprung up in the country. Hotbeds of resistance have appeared all over its territory. Recently a congress was held in one of the country's liberated regions. The congress set up a United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea [KNUFNS], which brought together in its ranks all the patriotic strata of the people.

The other day the text of the KNUFNS's declaration to its compatriots and the composition of its Central Committee became known. The declaration calls for the people's broad unity in order to carry out a vital revolutionary task--to oust the band of militarist dictators in the service of reactionary foreign forces, establish a people's democratic system and transform Kampuchea into a truly peaceful, independent, neutral and nonaligned country following the path of socialism.

In determining its action program the KNUFNS proposed the creation of mass revolutionary organizations in the country and urged officers, soldiers and working people in the reactionary administrative apparatus to go over to the side of the people. [paragraph continues]

In outlining its foreign policy course the front advocated a policy of peace, friendship and nonalinement in relations with all countries and the promotion of the building of a peace-loving, independent, free, neutral, stable and flourishing Southeast Asia.

It is now known that the Front's leading organ comprises 14 people representing various Kampuchean social strata. The Central Committee is headed by Yeng Samrin, former political commissar and commander of the fourth division.

The people's movement against the country's reactionary rulers is broadening and becoming more organized. Liberated regions already exist in 16 of the 19 Kampuchean provinces. The country's genuine revolutionary and patriotic forces have begun a determined struggle to save the motherland.

Another week has passed. It has brought further evidence that the forces of peace and progress are confidently counteracting imperialism and international reaction.

MOSCOW SCORES PEKING FOR OPPOSING SOVIET UN PROPOSAL

CW0604102 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 4 Dec 78 CW

[Petrov commentary]

[Text] The UN First Committee has adopted by a majority vote the Soviet proposal on concluding an international pact protecting the security of nonnuclear countries. Delegates of 117 countries adopted the draft resolution on this question. The Chinese delegate cast a negative vote.

Peking leaders have again shown that they oppose measures for curbing the arms race and for realizing disarmament. The majority of countries have endorsed the Soviet proposal, but Chinese diplomats have continued to assert that intensification of the arms race is the only guarantee for the security of all nations. At the United Nations the Chinese foreign minister has said many times that arms are the only effective measure. This clearly reflects the Peking leaders' principal objectives in the international arena: undermining the process of detente and stepping up the arms race. The Peking leaders have tried to prove that all disarmament measures cannot promote world security. They have said that there is only one way to guarantee one's security, that is, to have new-type weapons, primarily nuclear weapons.

It is not difficult to understand that Peking's opposition to collective measures by the majority of countries seriously damages the interests of various countries, particularly developing countries. In fact, Peking has advised developing countries to catch up with developed countries in the nuclear arms race. However, this is hopeless.

Considering these conditions, the Soviet Union has put forward an explicit plan. The Soviet Union holds that the security of all countries that have no nuclear weapons should be effectively and reliably guaranteed. Thus the Soviet Union has proposed that an international pact guaranteeing the security of nonnuclear countries be concluded. Such a pact can reliably guarantee the security of countries that refuse to possess nuclear weapons on their own accord and those which do not allow deployment of nuclear weapons on their territory. The approval of this proposal by 117 countries shows that the world recognizes it. By opposing this proposal, the Peking leaders must be held responsible by all people who sincerely strive for world peace.

SOVIET DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PARIS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID

ID121858Y Moscow TASS in English 1742 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--A delegation of Soviet public today flew to Paris where a meeting of the committee to follow up the World Conference Against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in Southern Africa opens on Wednesday.

The head of the delegation, deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Vladimir Kudryavtsev told a TASS correspondent before departure:

"Our stand at the coming meeting in Paris is clear. The Soviet people are for complete liquidation of the system of apartheid in South Africa, for release of political prisoners and establishment of a democratic system in that country. We are for immediate transfer of entire power in Zimbabwe to genuine representatives of the people of that country, the Patriotic Front. All South African troops and South African administration must be recalled from the Namibian territory and power in that country must go to the sole lawful representative, the South-West Africa People's Organisation.

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN LATVIA--Riga, December 12, TASS--Problems pertaining to organizing a world-wide system for observations for the changes taking place in the biosphere under the impact of man's economic activity are being examined in the town of Yurmala, a spa of Latvia (a Soviet Baltic Republic). An international symposium was opened here today under the aegis of the world meteorological organization and the coordination centre of the U.N. environmental programme. The implementation of the draft under discussion in the symposium would make it possible to receive permanently comprehensive information about the state of the air, water and soil, sources of their pollution as well as the reaction of the animal world and the earth's vegetable cover to the effect of harmful factors. This will make it possible to coordinate the efforts of various countries for the protection of nature. The symposium is attended by representatives of Bulgaria, Britain, Hungary, the GDR, Canada, Kenya, Poland, the USSR, the USA, the FRG, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. The delegation includes ecologists and meteorologists, geophysicists and chemists, biologists and medical men. Discussions will continue four days. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID]

U.S. PRESS, ZIONIST 'SLANDERS' ON KATZ BABY EXPOSED

ID121900Y Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--The LITERATURNAYA GAZETA is again commenting on the slanderous campaign in the United States over the statement in the Soviet Union of the sick Katz baby. The Katz's have recently arrived in the USA and, as the newpaper New York TIMES wrote, the little girl Jessica "looks healthy, and it seems, feels fit".

In this connection the New York TIMES writes: "Well, to the Russians, our apologies. They seem to have cared well for Jessica. The Jewish organizations that seek to dramatize the plight of the Soviet Jews need to think over the temptation of riding with a 'good' but erroneous story, and the U.S. press, we are sure, will reflect further on this affair," the New York TIMES points out.

The New York TIMES, the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA writes, has found itself in an extremely awkward, perhaps, absurd situation. It echoed and long disseminated all over the world a malicious invention, slandered Soviet medical men, who treated the baby from a grave illness and permitted itself in this condition inadmissible, groundless generalizations about the "Kremlin's monstrous policy". It disregarded the fact that already on May 24 this year head of the ward of the Moscow Children's Hospital, where Jessica (then she was named Zhenya) lay, Doctor Zinoviy Svirskiy calmly and with a good knowledge of the subject, explained from the pages of our newspaper the essence of the matter and frankly and accurately described these insinuations as monstrous.

"It is only now that the New York TIMES decided to mutter through its teeth 'apologies' to the Russians and even reprimanded the Zionist provocateurs, and advised them in a friendly manner to revise their tactics."

"Unlike the New York TIMES," the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA points out, "we are not at all sure that the American press will reflect time that life has exposed unscrupulous authors of anti-Soviet slanders. But they are not at all embarrassed by it and continue their activity, which is extremely harmful to good relations among nations. In this connection we can recollect some things.

"It is for quite a few years now that the New York TIMES and other newspapers of its kind have cynically and indecently been speculating on other people's troubles alleging that dissidents are kept in Soviet psychiatric hospitals. Soviet psychiatrists who are just as 'inhuman' as the paediatrists, who succeeded in saving Jessica, often successfully restore the mental health of their patients. Some of the latter then go to the Western countries and there, alas they suffer from a relapse of their disease. And the Western psychiatrists also treat them, confirming the original diagnosis. But political speculations continue, and nobody was heard to apologize for deliberate slanders."

Then the LITERATURNAYA GAZETA explains why the New York TIMES still decided to apologize. "Simply because, it points out that using such a seemingly artless method, it hopes to strengthen in its readers--electors--men in the street--trust in the rest of the thing it publishes: We beg your pardon, we have misled you, we published lies, but this is for the first and the last time, we shall never do it again, we are objective and, as you see, decent journalists, if we apologize...but everything will go on as before."

ARTIFICIAL 'REGIONAL PROBLEMS' CAUSE U.S.-USSR DIFFERENCES

Moscow NOVOSTI DAILY REVIEW in English 28 Nov 78 pp 1-3 WA

[NOVOSTI analyst Mikhail Puchkovskiy interview with Oleg Bykov, deputy director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "USSR-USA: Time for Crucial Decisions"]

[Text] Improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is the key to stable world peace. That explains the significance of a recent meeting in Moscow between Soviet MPs and a US Senate delegation, said Oleg Bykov, vice-director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences and a well-known expert on Soviet-US relations, in an interview with Mikhail Puchkovskiy, an APN analyst.

[Question] So what are priorities, in the Soviet view, in the development of these relations?

[Answer] No doubt, to prevent the threat of a nuclear war remains the most important task. This means that not only two countries, but the whole of mankind will be spared that ominous danger. And the first major step along this road should be the early conclusion of a SALT agreement. It is no mere chance that the importance of this agreement is stressed in the declaration of the recent conference of leaders of the Warsaw Treaty countries.

One cannot, however, fail to see that although the administration says it is ready to sign a SALT-2 agreement, influential forces opposing it exist in the USA. Their arguments and methods are by no means new. But while in the 50s the "Soviet threat" was used not without success to intimidate the ordinary American, today when life itself has convinced sane people that this "threat" is no more than a bogy, some people are still wielding it in Capitol, in the corridors of power.

Resistance to anything except the "guaranteed superiority" of the United States is proclaimed to be a criterion of patriotism. In opposing SALT-2, the "patriots" are trying to advance totally unacceptable terms of a military, international, political and economic nature. To prove what cannot be proved every trick is used, from proposing amendments to the treaty which would deprive it of any sense, to "leaking" information which turns out to be deliberate deception. This line is erroneous, it lacks any constructive spirit, any prospect and is fraught with very real danger, believes the vice-director of the institute.

But the realistic approach to Soviet-US relations is gaining ground. Stability and genuine national security, believe realistically-minded people, lies in a consistent and real limitation of arms on the basis of the existing balance of military strength, not in the development of ever new systems of deathly weapons--the ephemeral nature of such "trump cards" as neutron weapons has already been understood by some senators. A SALT-2 agreement is a major step towards calling an effective halt to the race in the most destructive means of warfare.

Apparently, SALT supporters are aware that the Soviet Union respects America, but it naturally requires the same respect from America too. He who values his own sovereignty should not infringe upon the sovereignty of others, should not try directly or indirectly to interfere in others' internal affairs. A SALT-2 agreement is an important stimulus for progress. Its non-conclusion would throw relations between the USSR and the USA far back, and the consequences of that would be difficult to predict. Only such an understanding and practice to match it can serve as a reliable basis for the constructive development of Soviet-US relations.

There is no doubt that ratification of SALT would give a considerable impulse to the development of Soviet-US trade. According to some American experts, the United States could export to the USSR at least two and a half billion dollars' worth of goods more if the Soviet Union were granted Most Favoured Nation treatment and if credit restrictions were removed. Isn't the Soviet interest in the development of trade also advantageous for the United States? For thanks to the account taken of mutual interest trade between the USSR and the West has in the past ten years increased by 250 per cent, that with Sweden and Austria by 300 per cent and that with the FRG, by 400 per cent.

Differences between the USSR and the USA, it will be recalled, are due to many so-called regional problems which are often hypertrophied and sometimes created artificially by the American side. Can the United States deny that the Camp David accords have been reached in violation of the well-known agreements, that they have scuttled the Geneva conference and have not only failed to improve the situation in the Middle East, but have actually placed quite a number of delayed action mines in it? Can the Soviet Union react indifferently to the anti-Soviet attempt, fraught with the threat of a global conflict, to play the "Chinese card?" Can one agree with those senators who would like to see in any indignation felt by peoples with tyrants or racists in any part of the world the "hand of Moscow" and to make the SALT-2 agreement and the entire set of Soviet-US relations "hostages" of such situations?

Soviet views on regional problems, which were referred to by some senators, are clear to the utmost, Oleg Bykov went on to say. The Soviet Union has opposed and will continue to oppose any attempts by certain Western countries and multinational monopolies to consolidate or retain their hold on economy and politics in a number of Asian, African and Latin American countries. We firmly support the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their desire to gain national independence. Attempts to impose on them decisions dictated by the interests of Western capital are openly condemned. The USSR makes no secret of its solidarity with the struggle waged by the peoples of South Africa against the racist regime of Pretoria.

It is not a desire of unilateral advantage, nor attempts on the "oil interests" of other countries that guide Soviet Middle East policy. Its principles remain unchanged: any political settlement in the region should be comprehensive. Israel must withdraw its troops from all Arab territories it occupied in 1967. The right of Palestinian Arabs to self-determination, to the extent of establishing a state of their own, cannot be questioned. The Palestine Liberation Organisation must be an equal party to such a settlement which would guarantee all Middle East countries, including, of course, Israel, their sovereignty and security.

The Americans need merely recall pages from their own history to realise that the struggle waged by peoples of former colonies for the right freely to choose their own way of social development, to enjoy territorial integrity and genuine sovereignty is very difficult, but fully justified.

Time is pressing, concluded Oleg Bykov. With regard to the ending of the arms race it no longer can be counted in years, let alone decades. It is urging immediate joint crucial decisions and actions.

U.S., USSR APPROACHES TO ARMS EXPENDITURE CONTRASTED

LD120943Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 3 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[International review by observer Gennadiy Shishkin: "The Real and Imaginary Danger"]

[Text] The Warsaw Pact states' recent Moscow declaration drew the broad international public's attention to one of the chief problems of the present day--the danger to peace inherent in the continuation and intensification of the arms race. The well-known U.S. public figure W. Coffin said that the "decisions adopted by the United States and the NATO countries to increase military appropriations by many tens of billions of dollars do not strengthen security; on the contrary, they bring the world nearer to nuclear catastrophe."

In launching production of more and more new types of arms and increasing the military budget, the U.S. administration is in fact dancing to the tune of the military-industrial complex--the sinister alliance between the Pentagon and those corporations connected with it which are interested in constantly expanding weapons production, both to gain profit and to subjugate independent countries and peoples. According to the estimates of the New York Economic Priorities Council, the Pentagon's orders to U.S. arms-producing concerns in 1977 amounted to $50 billion. This is 20 percent more than in the previous year.

The American and NATO hawks' major "achievement" is the creation of an atmosphere of suspicion toward the Soviet Union and the invention of the myth of the "Soviet military threat." Under cover of these propaganda fabrications, the United States and most of the NATO countries are constantly increasing their military budgets. During his election campaign J. Carter advocated a $5-7 billion cut in U.S. military expenditures. But when he entered the White House, expenditure increased by a much greater amount. Moreover, at the NATO Council spring session the United States forced upon its partners the decision to automatically increase military budgets by 3 percent per year in real terms--over and above inflationary growth and independent of the international situation.

The Washington POST reports that the United States has embarked on the broadest nuclear weapons production program in the last two decades. In the next 5 years the U.S. nuclear arsenal will get new warheads for ground- and sea-based ICBM's, a new air-launched cruise missile, a new warhead for the Lance missile, new strategic and tactical bombs, and a whole series of nuclear artillery projectiles.

More and more billions of dollars are being allocated for this and the Pentagon is demanding yet more. In January the U.S. Defense Department intends to ask Congress for extra appropriations of $2.2 billion for the initial stage of development of a new ground-based missile known as the MX and a new version of the Trident missile complex with a range of 6,000 miles. The cost of the full programs for the MX missile alone will be $30 billion, and according to some estimates even $40 billion, not to mention the fact that, according to specialists, it will place additional very serious obstacles in the way of concluding new SALT agreements.

The advocates of the "position of strength" policy assure Americans and other peoples that all this will be necessary in order to "deter the Soviet Union and eliminate the 'Soviet threat'." Any reasonable unprejudiced observer can clearly see how remote these "arguments" are from reality. [paragraph continues]

It is the United States, not the Soviet Union, which created a system of military bases girding the entire world. It is common knowledge that 25 percent of all U.S. armed forces are stationed at these bases--and they number more than 2,000 in 40 countries.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union, as a state situated on two continents and forced to take into account the situation in Europe and Asia, has a colossal territory of 22.5 million square kilometers and 60,000 kilometers of border to defend. Thus, even from a purely military viewpoint it has to reckon with potential threats both on land and from the ocean. Nevertheless, it is the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries which are the most active advocates of cutting military budgets and limiting the arms race. The fact is that defense expenditure in the Soviet Union remains steady and has even fallen somewhat since 1970 (R17.9 billion) to R17.2 billion in 1978 and 1979. On the other hand, the United States has raised its military expenditure from $81.5 billion in 1969 to over $117 billion in 1978.

It is no secret that the ordinary people in the United States and the other NATO countries are paying for the whipping up of the arms race. Despite mass unemployment, appropriations to create new jobs in the public sector are cut by $1.5 billion in the draft new U.S. budget. Moreover, the budget envisages a substantial reduction in appropriations for student aid, for primary and secondary education, for social security programs for invalids and for medical services. In short, as the New York TIMES reports, "It is hard to think of an agency dealing with domestic problems whose important programs have not been cut."

Many Americans are perfectly aware that this course is fatal for the United States as well as for the cause of peace and detente. "All the White House's appeals for economy and moderation in the expenditure of funds do not apply to the Defense Department at all," the well-known commentator J. Reston writes in the New York TIMES. He noted that there are many people in the United States who do not agree with the militarist appeals of organizations like the Committee on the Present Danger. These people believe, J. Reston writes, that "the present danger is not the Soviet threat but the threat of inflation and the erosion of faith in the dollar and in the manageability of the U.S. economy."

Peace supporters throughout the world resolutely support the socialist countries' joint statement that it is a most important task of international politics to insure a speedy, decisive breakthrough at the talks on ending the arms race and disarmament. They express particular satisfaction with the declaration's appeal for the five nuclear powers to start talks in the immediate future on removing nuclear weapons from their arsenals and on the use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes.

The declaration adopted by the conference participants stresses that the arms race means poverty for the peoples of the world and unemployment for the population of the leading capitalist countries. The peace supporters have voiced a determined protest against the criminal plans to produce and deploy the neutron weapon.

CARTER DISCUSSES SHAH, SALT, SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT

LD122300Y Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] President Carter said on Tuesday good progress has been made at the talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic arms.

The president was speaking at a news conference in Washington. He discussed a wide range of subjects. About developments in Iran President Carter said the shah has his support and trust. President Carter expressed confidence that the shah will manage to hold power. Asked whether he intends to campaign for a second term as President, James Carter said he has already taken a decision but will make it public later.

CARTER DECISION NOT TO EXPAND DEVELOPMENT AID DENOUNCED

LD122230Y Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 12, TASS--Referring to growing economic difficulties, the United States decided to give up the promise for increasing aid to the developing countries. President J. Carter, the newspaper Washington POST reports, has already informed White House officials about this decision.

J. Carter is known to promise during his election campaign to increase this aid by 1982. A statement to this effect was also made by the U.S. secretary of state at last year's conference on international economic cooperation in Paris.

The aid for development needs given by the United States through the official channels from 1965 to 1977 has been cut by more than a half from the low as it is figure of 0.49 per cent of the gross national product. The world's richest capitalist state ranks only 12th in the size of its contribution to aid to the developing countries among the 18 leading industrialized states.

As the Washington POST points out, the refusal to expand aid to the developing countries is in sharp contrast with the administration's determination to increase its military spendings every year by all means.

CHINA

PEKING WALLPOSTERS CRITICIZE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

LD130024Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] REUTER reports from Peking that for the first time wallposters have appeared on the walls of Peking houses openly condemning the so-called Cultural Revolution. One of the texts, written in large characters, says that the Cultural Revolution plunged the country into chaos, damaged education and sharply reduced the standard of living. The economy did not develop and many outstanding activists were repressed. The author asks whether the Cultural Revolution was good and answers his own question: It did nothing good for the Chinese people; it only created difficulties. The wallposter's author demands that the Cultural Revolution should be officially declared incorrect and that its victims be rehabilitated. I would like to remind you that previous criticism of the Cultural Revolution appeared in veiled form as criticism of Mao Tse-tung. Several days ago Teng Hsiao-ping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, appealed to the authors of the wallposters to cool their ardor and direct their energies to something else. And now we have such a surprise. By all accounts the authorities have never managed to put the wave of spontaneous criticism of Mao and his ideas under their control.

FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER PENG TEH-HUA REHABILITATED

LD121330Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0130 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Vsevolod Shishkovskiy]

[Text] Telegrams from foreign news agencies in Peking report that the rehabilitation of former Chinese Defense Minister Marshal Peng Teh-hua, one of the outstanding leaders of the Chinese people's national liberation movement, has been officially announced there. In 1959, Peng Teh-hua, on Mao's direct orders, was stripped from all his posts, and for a long period was persecuted and humiliated by the Peking hierarchy. The authorities took vengeance on Peng for his criticism of the Great Helmsman's foreign and political policy, which he made at the Lushan plenum of the CCP Central Committee in the summer of 1959. Among other things, he resolutely opposed the economic policy of the Great Leap Forward and people's communes, calling it a "great adventure." At the same time, Huang Ke-cheng, chief of the General Staff, and Chang Wen-tien, deputy minister of foreign affairs, were also subjected to repressions. Incidentally, Chang, prior to his appointment to that post, was the PRC's ambassador to the Soviet Union. There is no information about the possibility of rehabilitating Chang Wen-tien, which is not surprising, since he was an active opponent of the anti-Soviet trends in Mao Tse-tung's foreign and political policy. As far as Peng Teh-hua's rehabilitation is concerned, it may be seen as an indirect condemnation of Mao's adventurist policy in the PRC's economic construction.

TENG HSIAO-PING'S WIFE CHO LIN APPOINTED TO CCP CC POST

LD120018Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Gennadiy Ariyevich]

[Text] It is reported from Peking that today's edition of the PEOPLE'S DAILY says that the wife of Teng Hsiao-ping, Cho Lin, has been named as a responsible official [otvetstvennyy sotrudnik] of the CCP Central Committee Military Commission. Cho Lin has been presented to the public for the first time in this capacity.

It is not stated when she took up this post with the Military Commission. However, it is clear that Teng Hsiao-ping's position in this important CCP Central Committee organ is also being consolidated.

In light of the acute Peking power struggle Cho Lin's promotion cannot be viewed as an isolated episode.

PEKING TURNING TIBET INTO 'MILITARY SPRINGBOARD'

LD121800Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] India's defense minister, Jagjivan Ram, has told Parliament that according to reliable information China is stepping up military preparations in Tibet. Here is what Radio Moscow news analyst Viktor (Sivyakov) writes:

That Peking is turning Tibet into a military springboard has been known for a long time. In his statement, India's defense minister singled out that aspect of the problem which cannot but cause concern on the part of India and other of China's neighbors. He said Peking has increased the combat readiness of its troops in Tibet. In other words, the campaign of four modernizations which is being carried out in China and which places emphasis on modernization of the army has reached the southern borders of China.

Another aspect of the problem is that Peking's plans for purchasing weapons in the West are part of that program of four modernizations. Lately, many delegations from Peking have visited the NATO countries. They discussed terms of purchasing modern military equipment. Now what is Peking interested in? It wants to have the British Harrier vertical take-off fighter planes, the French Ariane rocket carrier, the West German Leopard tank and the highly sensitive (?spying) equipment. The nature of these purchases shows that Peking leaders seek military superiority over their southern neighbors.

Things are made worse by the fact that certain quarters in the West are encouraging Peking. For instance, certain participants of the NATO Council session in Brussels have approved giving Peking new possibilities of buying the latest types of weapons in the NATO countries. Incidentally, the West makes no secret of the fact that Peking will be getting offensive not defensive weapons. For instance, it is very well known that the Harrier fighter plane is ideal for such a mountainous region as Tibet, access to which is otherwise difficult. It must be said, of course, that lately Peking has done a great deal to link Tibet by a strategic highway with Sinkiang and the central regions of China. According to Western news agencies, an intensive flow of military cargo has been recently streaming along the strategic highway through Aksai Chin towards the southern borders of China. The newspaper PATRIOT points to the suspicious activity going on near the Karakoram strategic highway built by China despite India's protests.

Another indicative point is that while in words Peking agrees to normalizing relations with India, it in practice has in no way showed its intention to return to India the territories seized during the armed conflict in the years from 1959 to 1963. The military preparations in Tibet give rise to the question whether the Peking leadership intends to keep the seized territory through force of arms and use them to build a military beachhead?

PRAVDA REPORTS ON KOSYGIN TALKS WITH GDR'S STOPH

LD121553Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[TASS report: "In a Cordial, Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] On 8 December A. N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, met with W. Stoph, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, who arrived in Moscow on a short working visit, in the Kremlin.

Taking part in the meeting were: On the Soviet side--N. A. Tikhonov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; N. K. Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan; N. N. Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosplan, and N. D. Komarov, deputy minister of foreign trade;

On the GDR side--G. Mittag, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee; G. Schuerer, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Commission; H. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR; K. Gruenheid, secretary of state at the GDR State Planning Commission; and E. Kattner, deputy minister of foreign trade.

The heads of government noted with satisfaction that fraternal relations between the USSR and the GDR, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, are continuing to develop dynamically and fruitfully and that the USSR and the GDR collaborate closely and effectively in the international arena. In this connection particular stress was laid on the significance of the results of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Moscow conference, which were a weighty new confirmation of the socialist countries' unswerving adherence to the policy of relaxation of tension and their determination to strive to deepen this process.

During the talk the main attention was devoted to questions of further expanding and improving economic cooperation between the USSR and the GDR. It was noted that the consistent deepening of economic ties between the two countries both on a bilateral basis and within the CEMA framework is an important factor in successfully fulfilling the tasks of building a communist and developed socialist society set by the 25th CPSU Congress and the Ninth SED Congress. In accordance with the agreement reached last summer in the Crimea between L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, the sides agreed on additional measures aimed at insuring that the elaboration of state plans for economic development for the USSR and the GDR in the period 1981-1985 takes place under the sign of the broad development of specialization and production sharing in the interests of more efficient economic development for the two countries.

The talk, which took place in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and cordiality, demonstrated the identity of the sides' views on the problems touched on and their mutual desire to strengthen fraternal friendship and steadily develop all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and the GDR.

A.N. Kosygin gave a luncheon in honor of W. Stoph.

The luncheon was attended by: on the Soviet side--N.A. Tikhonov, K.V. Rusakov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers and other officials; on the GDR side--G. Mittag, G. Schuerer, H. Ott, K. Gruenheid and E. Kattner.

During the luncheon, which took place in a cordial, friendly atmosphere, A.N. Kosygin and W. Stoph exchanged brief speeches.

The same day Comrade W. Stoph left the Soviet Union.

He was seen off at Vnukovo airport by Comrades A.N. Kosygin and N.A. Tikhonov and other officials.

Among the sendoff party was H. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

BCP'S MIKHAYLOV PAYS VISIT, MEETS WITH ZIMYANIN

LD121149Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "On a Friendly Visit"]

[Text] S. Mikhaylov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee, was in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee 4 through 7 December. He had talks at CPSU Central Committee departments and PRAVDA editorial offices and visited the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism.

During S. Mikhaylov's meeting with M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, there was an exchange of information on the ideological activities of the CPSU and the BCP, and certain questions of Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation were discussed.

POLISH VETERANS PROTEST FRG INTENTION ON WAR CRIMINALS

LD091008Y Moscow TASS in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, December 9, TASS--Igor Galkin, a TASS correspondent, reports:

Polish war veterans, everyone who experienced what fascism is, are emphatically protesting against the intention to apply the statute of limitations in the FRG to war criminals and crimes against humanity, says the appeal issued here by the Presidium of the Main Board of the Polish Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy.

We consider that this question is the internal concern of not only the Federal Republic of Germany, the appeal emphasizes. This question is of great importance for the shaping of the future of Europe, for the cause of peace.

The Polish veterans who had fought on all the fronts of the Second World War appealed to the world public to apply, in accordance with the U.N. convention dated November 26, 1968, everywhere the principle of limitless prosecution of war criminals and persons who commited crimes against humanity.

The Presidium of the Main Board of the Union of Fighters for Freedom and Democracy also expressed a strong protest against the release of Hitlerite war criminal Peter Menten by the Hague Court. It described the court decision as "an affront to the memory of the victims of Hitlerite genocide, an affront to the memory of all those who had fought against Hitlerism."

DANGER OF BRITISH ARMS SALES TO PRC ASSESSED

LD122302Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Valeriy Belyanskiy commentary]

[Text] If we may judge by the mass influx of Chinese military experts into the British Isles, Peking seriously expects Britain to help modernize the Chinese Army. The GUARDIAN reports that the current 2-week visit of the Chinese delegation under the minister for engineering [as heard], Lu Tung, would include not only a tour of the British aerospace factories that make the Harrier fighter, but also detailed negotiation of a contract for such fighters. The paper says the deal for Harriers and for the latest British military know-how is expected to be closed next February, when the secretary of state for industry, Eric Varley, visits Peking.

Now why does Peking look upon Britain as the most likely supplier of weapons and military equipment for the Chinese Army? The reason evidently is not simply a high opinion of British fighters or of British achievements in microelectronics. Rather, Peking believes London is moving in the direction of a political alliance with China. British munitions companies make no secret of their eagerness to sell weapons, and London has shown it can close its eyes to the human rights issue when it's a matter of doing (?practical business).

In China, as you know, dissent is persecuted legally and on a vast scale, but obviously what prompts Peking's interest in Britain is chiefly the political stand of official quarters. London has yet to dissociate itself from the argument of Neil Cameron and Lord Chalfont that the West had interests in common with China. At any rate, British spokesmen at Atlantic week briefings used this argument when they asked permission for a military deal with China.

All this may please Peking, but is it really in the interests of Britain and the West as a whole? The DAILY TELEGRAPH correspondent in Brussels reported that Britain's NATO allies expressed doubt about the sale of Harrier fighters to China, and with good reason. Anglo-Chinese military cooperation goes beyond bilateral relations. It could have a serious effect on the international situation. The OBSERVER is of the opinion that no matter how attractive economic profits may be to Britain the sale of military equipment to China would endanger world peace and jeopardize the lessening of tension between the West and the Soviet Union. Some British statesmen have expressed the same view.

A closer look at Peking's policy should suggest that if the West helps China to modernize its army and supplies such an offensive weapon as the Harrier fighter this could encourage Peking to [word indistinct] action against the Soviet Union, and where is the guarantee that Peking will not use Western weapons against the West itself in what Peking calls the inevitable next war?

It remains to be seen what London will decide about military cooperation with China, but meanwhile the Chinese military delegation is getting a warm welcome and being shown the latest in modern weapons.

ATTEMPTS TO CREATE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM VIEWED

ID121331Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Dec 78 p 5 ID

[Yuriy Yasnev dispatch: "Insufficient Steam"]

[Text] Brussels--A 2-day session of the so-called "European Council," within whose framework the Common Market heads of government and state meet three times a year to discuss that grouping's problems, has just ended in Brussels. This time the "European Council's" work attracted heightened attention not only in West Europe but also far beyond its borders. For the council was to give its blessing to an ambitious plan for creating a "European Monetary System" (EMS).

The EMS plan was submitted by West Germany and France. The essence of the plan consists in throwing the currencies of all the "Nine" into a single pool in which fluctuations in their parities would be strictly limited and would not exceed 2.25 percent. It is planned to establish a "European unit of account" and through joint contributions to form a reserve fund of 25 billion European units of account (about $35 billion). All this is intended ultimately to lead to the creation in West Europe of a "zone of currency stability" capable of protecting the Common Market countries' economies from the consequences of the U.S. dollar's "rises" and "falls."

The EMS caused disputes within the "Nine." For instance, Britain immediately reserved a particular negative position. Italy demanded 8-percent fluctuation for its lire but eventually settled for 6 percent.

The burden of settling all these disagreements was shifted on to the shoulders of the "Nine's" leaders, who met a few days ago in the Belgian capital. But the results of their protracted sessions now show that this burden proved too much even for them. Not only Britain--as expected--but also Italy and Ireland refused to join the EMS.

Nevertheless, the verbose resolution of the "Nine's" leaders announced the creation of the EMS 1 January 1979, but instead of Nine countries, six will participate: the FRG, France, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. This essentially means nothing more than the addition of France to the "little currency snake" which already exists within the EEC framework. As is evident, the meeting participants had insufficient steam for anything more.

ITALIAN PARTIES REACT TO DECISION TO JOIN EMS

ID130008Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1745 GMT 12 Dec 78 ID

[Summary] Rome, December 12th--TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev reports: Debates on Italy's participation in the European Monetary System, EMS, began in the Italian Parliament today. Andreotti announced that the government had decided that Italy should take part in it immediately in order to help the country overcome its economic crisis, although some problems remained to be solved.

"The decision by the government was unexpected for many people, and the explanation of the reasons for the decision was unconvincing. A session of the leadership of the Socialist Party which took place immediately after the declaration that Italy would join the EMS put forward a demand for the immediate convocation of a conference of the leaders of the parliamentary majority.

"The decision by the government to join the EMS was also discussed at an urgent session of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party. Giorgio Anpolitano, member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, declared that the communists still consider that there are no conditions at the present time for Italy to enter the EMS right away."

The democratic parties of the ruling majority think that membership will damage Italy's economy.

"Local observers are connecting the hasty decision of the government to enter the EMS right away with maneuvers by conservative circles in the Christian Democrat and other bourgeois parties of the country. After Giulio Andreotti's return from Brussels where he refrained from signing the document on Italy's entry into the new monetary union, his actions came under severe criticism from the righting of the Christian Democrat Party, and representatives of the Republican Party said they would withdraw from the parliamentary majority if the Italian Government did not announce the immediate entry into the EMS."

UNITA says the conservatives are trying to split the parliamentary majority which contains the communists.

NATO SESSION FAILS TO RESPOND TO PEACE PROPOSALS

LD130329Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Viktor Bolshakov commentary]

[Text] The outcome of the latest NATO session has produced mixed feelings of apprehension and disillusionment among the public in Europe and other parts of the world. These feelings have been caused by the fact that the session has reaffirmed the long-term NATO policy of arms build-up and stepping up military preparations. The NATO allies of the United States have pledged to increase the size of their armed forces and to equip them with advanced weapons, including missiles, tanks, aircraft and warships.

This outcome of the NATO session was quite predictable. Before it began, the NATO forces' commander in Europe, General Haig, said it would be tragic if the United States and its allies would abandon their ambitions about increasing their military spending. Political observers in Western Europe note that the decisions of the NATO session are in striking contrast to the letter and spirit of the Helsinki accords. They also contradict the objective of strengthening peace and international security in Europe. The session passed in silence the peace proposals made by the socialist countries back in July and the proposals by the recent Moscow session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. It was proposed, for example, that both the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the NATO be dissolved at one and the same time. The socialist countries proposed as the first step to dismantle the military organizations of the two alliances, starting from a mutual reduction of military activities. The participants of the Moscow session also proposed for near future talks of the five nuclear powers--including the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China.

It was proposed that the five nuclear powers discuss the scrapping of their nuclear weapons stockpiles. The participants of the NATO session in Brussels didn't say a word about these initiatives of the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

On the other hand, many West European statesmen and political figures admit that measures suggested by the socialist countries would help to a large extent to bring a successful completion the Vienna talks on arms and armed forces reduction in Western Europe and would also help improve the international political climate in general. This prospect has also been mentioned as realistic by the leaders of some of the NATO member states. To give just one example, President Carter described the socialist countries' proposals as a quite concrete step in the right direction. Political observers, however, feel that it's not enough to admit the practical value of the latest Warsaw Treaty as being aimed at strengthening European peace and security, at supplementing political relations with that in the military field and at building up an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and mutual trust among the European countries.

It takes the combined efforts of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO to translate these noble objectives into reality for the benefit of all nations. But the latest NATO session in Brussles leaves no doubt that the NATO powers are not prepared to respond to the peace proposals by the Warsaw Treaty countries. Calls for keeping up the arms race can hardly be taken as a meaningful answer to these proposals.

KOSYGIN SENDS INDEPENDENCE DAY GREETINGS TO FINLAND'S SORSA

LD121343Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[TASS report: "On the Occasion of the National Holiday"]

[Text] A.N. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has sent Finnish Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa a telegram conveying on behalf of the Soviet Government and on his own account cordial congratulations and good wishes to the Finnish Government on the occasion of the national holiday--independence day.

The telegram notes with satisfaction that the broad and diverse spectrum of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Finland and the Soviet and Finnish peoples convincingly confirms the fruitfulness and long-term nature of the policy reliably determined by the 1948 Soviet-Finnish treaty of peace, cooperation and mutual aid, and expresses confidence that the relations of friendship and trust between the USSR and Finland will continue to develop in the interests of both countries' peoples and the consolidation of peace and international security.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON IRAQI DELEGATION'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

Gromyko Receives Hammadi

LD121328Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, today received Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Iraq. During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship, there was an exchange of views on questions of further developing Soviet-Iraqi cooperation and some international problems of mutual interest. Particular attention was devoted to the situation in the Near East, including questions of uniting the efforts of all patriotic Arab forces in the struggle against separate deals and for achieving a just and stable peace.

The conviction was expressed that fruitful development of Soviet-Iraqi relations on the firm basis of the 1972 treaty of friendship and cooperation corresponds to the basic interests of both peoples and serves the cause of establishing a just and stable peace in the Near East. The sides stressed their mutual desire to continue strengthening these relations of friendship and cooperation.

Brezhnev Receives Saddam Husayn

LD121830Y Moscow TASS in English 1752 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, received in the Kremlin today Saddam Husayn, assistant general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Republic of Iraq, who is now paying an official friendly visit to the USSR.

Taking part in the talk were Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, 'Izzat Ibrahim and Tariq 'Aziz, members of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Republic of Iraq.

In the course of the talk, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, Leonid Brezhnev and Saddam Husayn expressed satisfaction with the development of all-round mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. It was stressed that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq regarded as an important task of their foreign policy the further strengthening of Soviet-Iraqi relations on the solid foundation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

This treaty, they believe, meets the basic national interest of both states, serves the cause of peace in the Middle East, the tasks of struggle against imperialism, colonialism and reaction. The sides expressed their resolution to perfect mutually advantageous Soviet-Iraqi cooperation in the political, economic and other domains.

An exchange of views took place on major international problems; special attention was given to the situation in the Middle East. Leonid Brezhnev and Saddam Husayn expressed serious concern over the dangerous aggravation of the situation in that region, caused by the policy of separate deals between Israel and Egypt with the active participation of the United States.

They resolutely condemned this policy as essentially anti-Arab and contrary to the interests of achieving a just all-embracing settlement in the Middle East.

It was stressed that such a settlement was possible only if the Israeli troops were completely withdrawn from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the lawful national rights of the Arab people of Palestine were guaranteed, including their right to self-determination and creation of their own state. The sides expressed readinessto continue to render all-round support to the just struggle waged by the Palestinian Arabs for their rights.

It was noted during the talks that the decisions of the Baghdad conference of the heads of state and government of Arab nations was called upon to play an important role in the struggle against the policy of separate anti-Arab deals, for the achievement of a just settlement of the Middle East problem.

Particular importance in this struggle is being assumed by cohesion of all the progressive, patriotic forces of the Arab world, consolidation of their friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, other countries of the socialist community.

It was decided to continue the practice of holding regular meetings between top leaders of the Soviet Union and Iraq. The sides noted that they contribute effectively to the strengthening of confidence and mutual understanding between both countries, help to solve promptly questions of bilateral cooperation and coordination of actions both in Middle East and international affairs.

The talk was attended: from the Soviet side by Yevgeniy Samoteykin, aide to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; from the Iraqi side by Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al-Baki, ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Soviet Union.

Kremlin Dinner Held

LD121846Y Moscow TASS in English 1822 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--A dinner was given today in the Grand Kremlin Palace on behalf of the CPSU CC and the USSR Government in honour of Saddam Husayn, deputy general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council. Present at the dinner were member of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin, USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, USSR Defence Minister Dmitriy Ustinov, alternate members of the Politbureau of the CPSU CC--First Vice President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasiliy Kuznetsov, First Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov. During the dinner, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, Aleksey Kosygin and Saddam Husayn exchanged speeches.

Kosygin Speech

LD121904Y Moscow TASS in English 1848 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--We regard your visit to the Soviet Union as an important step along the road of further deepening of friendly cooperation between our countries and peoples, Aleksey Kosygin said at a dinner in honour of Saddam Husayn.

The entire development of this cooperation shows that it is based on a firm foundation. Mutual respect, equality and solidarity in the joint struggle against the imperialist policy of aggression and oppression, for peace, freedom and independence of peoples always were and remain such a foundation. A remarkable milestone in the relations between the Soviet Union and Iraq was the signing in Baghdad in April, 1972, of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which meant bringing our relations to a higher level and imparted to them a still more active and fruitful character.

Friendly relations with the Republic of Iraq are highly valued in the Soviet Union. And we are doing everything to make them more durable. This is our firm course and it is not affected by circumstantial considerations.

Soviet-Iraqi cooperation is finding tangible embodiment in the jointly built industrial enterprises, oil-fields, irrigation installations. The projects, put up with the assistance of the Soviet Union, help the Iraqi people to strengthen their political and economic independence, and this gives the Soviet people a feeling of profound satisfaction.

Another important sphere of mutual cooperation between our countries is the coordination of foreign policy actions on questions of mutual interest. Coordination of the Soviet Union's and Iraq's actions in the interests of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is assuming particular importance in the current acute and complicated situation in that region. Israel and its American patrons are exerting every effort to perpetuate the occupation of Arab territories, to deprive a whole nation, the Palestinian Arabs, of their inalienable national rights.

No matter with what the participants in the Camp David deal try to cover up their real intentions, one thing is clear: that their practical actions are spearheaded against Arab peoples and bypass achievement of genuine peace in the Middle East.

We share just indignation of Arabs with the fact that the road of capitulation to the aggressor upon which the Egyptian president embarked has led to betrayal of the national Arab interests and the interests of Egypt itself.

It is understandable that such a development in the Middle East has brought to the fore the task of rallying all Arab countries and peoples fighting against separate deals. The outcome of the Baghdad conference, which rejected the anti-Arab deal concluded at Camp David, has become a great achievement of the patriotic forces of the Arab world.

The decisions adopted at the conference foiled calculations of those who try to subjugate to the aims of the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian collusion other Arab countries.

The chief merit in the convocation and successful holding of the Baghdad conference belongs to progressive Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which assumed the lead of the Arab movement against the policy of separate deals. It is undoubted that an important role in this was also played by the resolve of Iraq and Syria to turn a new page in their relations, to act as one in the struggle against imperialism's intrigues, for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The resolve of Arab countries, their capability to rebuff those who try to split Arab ranks and to profit from their differences, who are ready to trade off Arab interests, will be growing with each step, each initiative of this kind.

As stressed by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Central Committee of our party, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, "There is no task more urgent in the prevailing situation than unification and activation of all the forces that oppose the capitulatory, anti-Arab line in Middle East affairs, that want the peoples of the Middle East to secure peace and confidence in their morrow."

There exists a way to establish such peace in the Middle East, although the approaches to it are heavily obstructed now by those who have deviated from it in search of unilateral advantages. It is the road of all-embracing settlement, which would allow the Arab nations to get back the lands captured from them in 1967, would allow the Arab people of Palestine to exercise their lawful national rights, including the right to self-determination and creation of their own state, would allow all the states of the region to enjoy a guaranteed right to secure existence and development. All the peoples of the Middle East are interested in this, and not only they alone, for that matter.

This is precisely what the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist states stand for. They again declared this recently at the Moscow meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty nations. Our policy is determined by the principled line of deepening international detente and liquidating seats of tension, of supporting the struggle waged by the peoples for freedom, independence and social progress.

We know that the Arabs are fighting for a just cause and our sympathies and support go to them. The peoples of the Arab states can be sure that they have a dependable friend in the Soviet Union.

In conclusion Aleksey Kosygin proposed a toast to Comrade Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, president of the Republic of Iraq, to Comrade Saddam Husayn, to the successes of the friendly Iraqi people in the building of a new life, to a just and lasting peace inthe Middle East, to Soviet-Iraqi friendship.

Saddam Husayn Speech

LD122024Y Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--Since the signing between Iraq and the USSR in 1972 of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, our bilateral relations have been based on the solid principled foundation of true friendship, mutual respect, principles of sovereignty and concern for the joint interests of our peoples and countries, said Saddam Husayn, deputy general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq.

He was addressing in the Kremlin today the dinner given in his honour on behalf of the CPSU CC and the Soviet Government.

Saddam Husayn noted that the talks and joint activity by Iraq and the USSR were directed at support for the just struggle against Zionist aggression and the imperialist forces supporting it, at efforts in the race of restoring the legitimate rights of the Arabs and the rights of the Arab Palestinian people to its usurped homeland.

At present, the whole Arab world is going through an exceptionally important stage, he stressed. After several years of imperialist and Zionist activity and a whole number of acts of the capitulatory policy, which the Egyptian regime has started pursuing, the regime agreed to sign the Camp David accords.

Saddam Husayn said that the Arab people and the patriotic forces have from the very outset rejected and condemned these capitulatory accords. Then the inter-Arab summit meeting in Baghdad again reaffirmed to the whole world that the overwhelming majority of the Arab states rejects these accords and does not agree with the course of the Egyptian regime.

In this connection he highly evaluated the stand of the Soviet Union, which supported the decisions of the Baghdad summit and the course of this meeting for the strengthening of the joint Arab actions against Zionist aggression.

Along with the success of the Baghdad summit meeting, he went on to say, the leadership of Iraq and Syria have accomplished another inter-Arab achievement by signing the charter for joint national actions, which laid the basis for qualitatively new special relations between the two brother countries and a solid foundation for the struggle by the Arab nation against Zionist aggression, the imperialist plans of capitulatory policy.

Saddam Husayn stressed that the Arab nation will carry on the just struggle for the return of its occupied territories and ensuring in full the rights of the Arab Palestinian people, expecially its right to self-determination and creation of its independent state in its liberated territory.

He declared support by Iraq for the peoples striving for freedom and full independence. Along with it, Iraq adheres to the principles of non-alignment and respect for the sovereignty and free expression of will by all nations. It declares for broadening international cooperation on the basis of equality without the imposition of domination and monopolies, exploitation of the rights and wealth of other peoples. Iraq supports the call for nuclear disarmament and easing international tension directed at achieving a just peace for peoples, Saddam Husayn said.

Baghdad INA Version

For a Baghdad INA report on the speech delivered by Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Saddam Husayn at the 12 December banquet in his honor in Moscow, see the Iraq section of the 13 December Middle East and North Africa DAILY REPORT.

Protocol Signed

LD122204Y Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--The talks on questions of widening the economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and the Republic of Iraq ended today at the USSR State Committee for External Economic Relations. The protocol was signed by Chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Relations Semen Skachkov and member of the Revolutionary Command Council, Minister of Planning 'Adnan Husayn.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD122218Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1900 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In Moscow today the Soviet Union and Iraq signed an agreement to develop bilateral cooperation. Under this agreement both countries will widen cooperation in power generation, building industry, irrigation and transport.

With the help of the Soviet Union it is intended to build a huge hydroelectric complex on the Tigris River and a cement plant with an output of 1 million tons a year, and to improve the agricultural land over an area of 40,000 hectares in the Euphrates Valley.

A group of experts will go to Iraq to implement these projects. Equipment and machinery will also be shipped.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1836 GMT on 12 December reports that the Soviet-Iraqi agreement was signed "by Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee Nikolay Baybakov and Iraq's Minister of Planning 'Adnan Husayn."]

Commentary Stresses Arab Unity

LD121458Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On 11 December in the Kremlin talks began between Aleksey Kosygin and Saddam Husayn. This new Soviet-Arab meeting has attracted the attention of broad Arab and international public quarters, especially regarding the current stiuation in the Middle East. It is common knowledge that a number of Soviet-Arab meetings have been held. There were the Soviet-Algerian meeting, the Soviet-Syrian meeting, the Soviet-Jordanian meeting and the Soviet-Palestinian meeting. For these meetings Moscow was visited by Houari Boumediene, Hafiz al-Asad, Hasan ibn Talal, and Yasir 'Arafat. During all these meetings views on the Middle East situation were exchanged to work out a common action protecting legitimate rights and interests of the Arab states and peoples in the face of the attempts at a separate, capitulationist solution to the Middle East question.

Naturally this was the most important question dealt with at the present Soviet-Iraqi meeting. TASS reported that Saddam Husayn informed the Soviet side of the decisions of the Baghdad Arab summit conference, which condemned the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian Camp David deal. In this connection the sides underlined the importance of unifying the efforts of all the Arab countries in the interest of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Soviet Union has always called for the unity and the cohesion of the Arab world, which serves the cause of combating imperialism and aggression and the cause of freedom and progress. Every step toward consolidating Arab unity has always received the support of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union stands firmly and solidly alongside those forces in the Arab world that reject capitulation and are determined to struggle against separate deals. The Soviet-Iraqi meeting has provided an opportunity to discuss the prospects for Soviet-Iraqi relations, which are built on the solid foundation of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, between the two countries signed in 1972. We should point out that Soviet-Iraqi economic cooperation will grow in scope, for the Soviet Union has agreed to help Iraq build a number of important projects, especially in generating energy and irrigation. This is considered an endorsement by both sides of the further development and strengthening of fruitful cooperation to realize the creative (?schemes).

Husayn Departs Moscow

LD130950Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Iraqi Republic, left Moscow today. He had been in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit.

The guest was seen off at Vnukovo Airport by Comrade Kosygin, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials.

ARMY CONTROLS TEHRAN IN AFTERMATH OF DEMONSTRATIONS

LD122054Y Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 12, TASS--According to reports from Tehran an anti-government demonstration, involving hundreds of thousands of people, continued for more than eight hours in the Iranian capital yesterday. The newspaper Washington POST notes in this connection that unprecedentedly huge demonstrations, organized by the opposition, took place in Tehran during the past two days. The newspaper points out also that yesterday's manifestation was marked by more clearly expressed political overtones than the previous one. Many demonstrators carried anti-American slogans.

Many-thousand-strong demonstrations also took place in Esfahan, Kermanshahan Ilam, Mashhad, Qom, Zanjan, Gorgan, Hamadan, Ardebil, Yazd and other towns. In most cases the police and troops did not interfere with the manifestations, which were officially timed for the Moslem day of mourning for the dead.

Nevertheless, a clash took place in Esfahan between the security forces and demonstrators, who attempted to capture the local headquarters of the SAVAK political police. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS, at least five men were killed in that town yesterday and scores of demonstrators were wounded. Large clashes again occured in Esfahan today between the demonstrators and the troops. As reported by REUTER, about thirty people were killed by the police and soldiers. The Esfahan hospitals are full of wounded.

The Tehran streets are again controlled by troops today after two-day anti-government demonstrations.

Reports of news agencies show that there are people in the army and the police who are dissatisfied with the government's policy vis-a-vis the opposition. Thus, the UPI reports that in Dezful a policeman shot dead an officer who ordered to open fire at the demonstrations. In Hamadan a serviceman made an attempt on the life of the governor-general of that province and wounded him gravely.

An order of the military authorities was broadcast by Tehran Radio, according to which all demonstrations and processions are again banned as of today. Duration of the curfew was prolonged by two hours in Tehran. The Iranian radio and television has lately broadcast absolutely groundless reports which attempt to blame so-called "international communism" for the current events. What is more, references are being made to some "agents of international communism," who are allegedly giving the current anti-government movement not only moral, but also material support, specifically, with arms.

It is not difficult to distinguish in all this the sadly notorious hackneyed method of the U.S. intelligence agencies, which in similar situations always endeavour to put the blame on "international communism" or the "hand of Moscow."

In the meantime, it is precisely the U.S. intelligence services that are interfering in the internal affairs of Iran without concealing, specifically, the fact that they are seeking ways and means of replacing the present government if this proves necessary.

The American press makes no secret of this, too. The actions of the American intelligence services, which are endeavouring to make the Iranians seek "Moscow's hand" in the current events, can be regarded only as a "diversion manoeuvre." As to the USSR, it has always been and remains interested, as commonly known, in a stable and independent Iran, has never interfered in its internal affairs.

Moscow Persian Reports Events

LD121844Y Moscow in Persian to Iran 1130 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Iranian authorities today brought new units of the armed forces with tanks and armor to the streets of Tehran. These measures were taken following yesterday's antigovernment demonstrations by the hard-working people, which were unprecedented in the history of Iran, and which engulfed Tehran and other cities. Millions of people at these demonstrations demanded the ouster of the present regime, the abolition of martial law, and the withdrawal of the U.S. military mission. The demonstrators attacked the offices of the secret police, the security organization that is guilty of exerting pressure on and oppressing the opposition. As a result of the shooting by soldiers at demonstrators, five people were killed in Esfahan and dozens of others wounded. A number of people were also victimized in Mashhad.

BYRD'S 'MYSTERIOUS MISSION' SHOWS U.S. INTERFERENCE IN IRAN

LD131035Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 50, 8 Dec 78 pp 8-9 LD

[A. Stepanov article: "Mysterious Mission"]

[Text] The situation in Iran has again deteriorated sharply. On the evening of 1 December, on the eve of the New Year in the Moslem calendar and the beginning of the month of Moharram, during which the Shi'ite Moslems hold mourning processions in memory of Imam Hussein, mass antigovernment demonstrations began in many cities. Despite the curfew, thousands of people came out into the streets of Tehran.

Opposition forces prepared in advance for the beginning of Moharram, in order to turn the traditional demonstrations into a new round of confrontation with General Azhari's military government.

The military authorities, on their part, concentrated significant contingents of troops, tanks and helicopters in the capital. At first tear gas was used to disperse the demonstrators, then light small arms and even heavy weapons were used. Intensive small-arms fire continued for practically the whole of the night of 1-2 December. Foreign news agencies, in particular UPI, called these confrontations the "bloodiest" since the start of the popular disturbances. Quoting eyewitnesses, a REUTER correspondent reported that in Tehran alone the number of dead exceeded 1,000, and hundreds of demonstrators were arrested. Life in the capital was paralyzed by a general strike. The clashes continued in the days that followed. Reports of popular disturbances and attempts to suppress them with troops are also coming in from other parts of the country.

The official radio has condemned foreign correspondents for relaying reports which differ from the government version--that in the 2 days of confrontations only 13 people died. In a radio statement General Azhari made it clear that the government will continue to adopt tough measures to suppress opposition demonstrations.

U.S. interference in Iran's internal affairs is becoming increasingly evident against the background of the tragic events. How else can one describe the visit to Tehran by R. Byrd, U.S. Senate majority leader, who was sent there by Carter personally--a visit which took place on the eve of the anticipated mass disturbances? Nothing was reported on the purpose of the visit, although in a press statement the senator unambigously reasserted White House support for measures to restore "order and tranquillity." At the same time more and more groups of U.S. specialists, including military specialists, are continuing to arrive in Iran, augmenting the already considerable U.S. colony, which numbers up to 80,000 people according to some estimates. In Washington's "corridors of power" plans are being elaborated in the event of an "emergency." According to suggestions in the American press, what is meant by this "emergency" is the emergence of a direct threat to U.S. oil interests, the annulment of deals worth many billions for deliveries of American weapons, and the "possibility of the emergence of a regime hostile to the West."

It is no accident that in a U.S. television interview the prominent religious figure Khomeyni, one of the leaders of the opposition, accused the United States of "plundering Iran's natural resources" and pointed out that Tehran's close cooperation with Washington in the military sphere can only harm the people.

The U.S. press has recently been reporting that the U.S. special services are trying to arrange contact with those opposition figures considered to be "pro-Western." They are apparently backing two horses simultaneously: supporting the Shah's regime and at the same time courting the pro-Western wing of the opposition. As before, this double game is accompanied by an anti-Soviet and anticommunist propaganda campaign, which the aforementioned Senator Byrd joined in, not unintentionally.

In this connection it is relevant to recall L.I. Brezhnev's answer to a PRAVDA correspondent's question: "The Soviet Union, which maintains traditional good-neighborly relations with Iran, resolutely states that it is against outside interference in Iran's internal affairs by anyone, in whatever form and under whatever pretext."

U.S. officials state that Washington has no intention of interfering in Iranian affairs. But surely Senator Byrd's mysterious mission and the U.S. secret services' actions indicate the reverse?

VARIATIONS TO 9 DEC SITUATION REPORT ON IRAN

The following variations to the item entitled "Soviet Media Continue To Comment on Situation in Iran" and subtitled "9 Dec Situation Report," published in the 11 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 4, are taken from the TASS reports published under the headline "Tense Situation in Iran" by Moscow PRAVDA 10 December on page 5.

Page F5, insert after third paragraph:

According to diplomats, a UPI correspondent reports, hundreds of opponents of the present regime have been arrested in the last 2 days.

Throughout today tanks rumbled through the streets of Tehran, a whole flotilla of military helicopters circled above the city, and soldiers installed machineguns on rooftops. In this way, a UPI correspondent writes, "the shah's troops showed their strength."...adding passages

Page F5, last paragraph, line three, PRAVDA reads: ...of its demands. In this connection... rewording

PATRIOTIC FRONT SETS FIRE TO SALISBURY OIL STORAGE DEPOT

LD131104Y Moscow TASS in English 0931 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, December 13, TASS--An attack by the Zimbabwe patriotic forces sparked off a fire at Rhodesia's biggest oil storage within three kilometers of the central part of Salisbury. The fire has been raging for thirty hours now and all efforts by fire brigade and army units, which were rushed to the area, have failed to get it under control. According to preliminary reports, about a half of the oil reserves belonging to Western oil companies, such as Shell, Caltex, Mobil Oil and British Petroleum, has been destroyed by the fire. A butane gas storage which lies nearby is in the danger of exploding any moment.

The oil storage tanks in Salisbury are used for storing fuel supplied by Western monopolies to Rhodesia via South Africa. The real extent of damage caused is not disclosed by Salisbury for fear of making public facts which may shed light on the unseemly actions of the Western powers which continue to supply the Smith racist regime with fuel in defiance of U.N. economic embargo. It is believed that the damage caused by the explosion and fire runs into many millions of dollars.

The successful operation by the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front in hitting the regime's biggest oil storage will further aggravate the fuel situation in Rhodesia, serious as it is without that. Oil shipments to Rhodesia by international cartels have been made erratic lately by the events in Iran wherefrom comes most of the oil used in Rhodesia and South Africa.

WESTERN, NATO 'SUPPORT' FOR SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA SCORED

LD122110Y Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Rhodesian racist regime has carried out new acts of aggression against Mozambique. A communique issued by the Defense Ministry of Mozambique says that in the past 10 days Rhodesian aircraft have made four raids against populated areas of the country. Twenty-six persons were killed by bombs and napalm. Radio Moscow observer Viktor Sidenko writes in this connection:

In the past 18 months Rhodesian troops and aircraft have carried out more than 350 armed provocations against independent Mozambique. Many attacks were also made on Zambia and Botswana. Rhodesian racialist army units blow up civilian installations everywhere, mine roads, burn crops and poison wells. As a result of invasions and bombings by the racists thousands of civilians have been killed or wounded. Independent African countries are also victims of aggression by the racist South Africa. The largest South African act of aggression was the intervention in Angola in 1975 and 76, organized jointly with American secret services.

In the past few weeks South African racists have been making active preparations to carry out a new large-scale aggression against Angola. This is shown by the buildup of South African troops and military vehicles near the southern borders of that country and by the sharply intensified provocations. The increasing aggressiveness of the racists is due not only to the nature of racism and their desperate attempts to hold on to their positions. The racists have been on the warpath also because imperialism gives a large role to the racialist regimes in the south of Africa in its plans. The West regards these regimes as a sword of Damocles poised over independent Africa.

With the help of racists the NATO member countries count on undermining the independent regimes in Africa and paving the way for recolonization of the continant and that is why, despite United Nations Security Council decisions, the West supplies large quantities of arms to South Africa and Rhodesia.

The United States has supplied the racists with fighter planes, military transport aircraft, tanks, helicopters and armored vehicles. Britain has equipped the racist army with fighter planes, tanks and helicopters. Other NATO countries are not lagging behind. Apart from that, the NATO member countries have granted South Africa licenses for manufacturing various kinds of weapons. Last month the American CBS corporation, the Canadian CBC and the British BBC reported that an American-Canadian company, the Space Research Corporation, is supplying South Africa with artillery shells capable of carrying nuclear charges that are not yet part of the armaments of the NATO countries themselves. The most dangerous aspect of the military cooperation between the West and South Africa is the granting to that country of everything needed for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

The financial and economic assistance of the West is also being used to strengthen the racialist states in their machinery of violence. In a report by the Johannesburg newspaper FINANCIAL MAIL, in the first 6 months of this year alone the West granted South Africa loans totalling $206 million. According to the United Nations information in the past three years the apartheid regime has received from American and other Western banks loans and credits worth more than $9 billion. Despite the demand of the world public to stop the economic cooperation with the racists, the number of Western companies operating in South Africa has risen by 13 percent in the past three years to reach the total of 1,884.

The West also gives political support to the racists. It was with the consent of the United States and Britain that the Ian Smith regime launched the so-called internal settlement aimed at creating a puppet regime in Rhodesia. The Western powers have no objections either to the election farce organized the other day in Namibia by the South African occupation authorities. In the Security Council the West blocks resolutions on economic sanctions against South Africa in a bid to keep its hands free in the struggle against the African nations. Facts show that imperialism needs the racists not only for recolonization of Africa; imperialism goes farther than that in its designs. The peace-minded forces are seriously concerned in this connection with the activities of the West directed at setting up a military alliance in the South Atlantic. As plans stand, South Africa--a potentially nuclear country--and a number of reactionary Latin American regimes will make up the alliance. That is why not only independent Africa but the whole of the international public must redouble efforts in the struggle to end the racist regimes. Lasting world peace and strong security of the nations depend on the solution of this task to a very great extent.

PRAVDA CITES INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO SOVIET-AFGHAN TALKS

LD121325Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Dec 78 P 4 LD

[Text] TASS--Foreign news media are commenting on the completion of the Soviet-Afghan talks, the signing of the Treaty on Friendship, Neighborliness and Cooperation between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan[DRA] and the speeches exchanged in the Kremlin by L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and N.M. Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanisten [PDPA] Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

The results of the Soviet-Afghan summit talks are being noted by the Afghan public and mass media. The talks took place in a cordial and comradely atmosphere, Afghanistan's BAKHTAR news agency notes. The sides outlined basic directions and concrete measures for further broadening and deepening neighborly cooperation between the USSR and the DRA.

The traditional relations of neighborliness and fruitful cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan are in keeping with the fundamental interests of the Soviet and Afghan peoples, the paper KABUL TIMES writes in an editorial. Both sides unanimously support detente solving disputes by means of talks through discussion and developing cooperation and friendship among peoples in Asia and the world. The Afghan people will never forget the economic and technical assistance the Soviet Union is giving them in implementing their economic and technical development plans, the paper points out, stressing that this cooperation has become even broader since the Afghan people's April revolution.

The press in Bulgaria, the GDR, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and many developing states and western countries is giving detail coverage and commentary on L.I. Brezhnev's and N. M. Taraki's kremlin speeches.

The leader of the CPSU and Soviet state called the treaty an outstanding political enactment that will not only serve to further strengthen Soviet-Afghan friendship but will also serve the interests of both Asian and international peace and security, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (GDR) stresses.

The Soviet Union profoundly respects Afghanistan's foreign policy course, a policy of peace, nonalinement, development of equal, mutually advantageous relations with all countries and the solution of disputes by peaceful means, Hungary's NEPSZABADSAG writes. N. M. Taraki's visit to Moscow and the signing of the Soviet-Afghan treaty are an important milestone in the development of friendly relations and neighborly cooperation between the two states. The papers note that while more and more appeals for increased military preparations by the Western powers are emanating from NATO headquarters, where the usual "Atlantic week" is being held, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has pointed once again to the USSR's tremendous efforts in the interests of strengthening international peace and security.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed in his speech that under present conditions, the prevention of a new world war which, were it to start in any part of the world, would be a terrible disaster for all mankind, is of prime importance, Czechoslovakia's RUDE PRAVO writes. The USSR wants international detente to become deeper and wider and spread to the world's most populous continent--Asia.

The Soviet Union has adamantly stated that it will not allow its defenses to be weakened in the face of imperialism's growing military might whatever demagogic arguments are used as a cover for appeals for this, London's MORNING STAR points out. This would have irreparable consequences for the cause of socialism and the people's freedom and independence.

"Brezhnev: Disarmament Cannot Be Unilateral"--beneath this headline France's L'HUMANITE writes: The Soviet leader reminded everyone that at all stages of the struggle to implement the most radical steps leading to disarmament, the principles of the equal security of the sides must be observed.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries advocate the limitation and ending of the arms race and a move toward disarmament. They stress, however, that a solution can only be found on a reciprocal basis, another French paper, LE FIGARO, points out.

The American news agency, AP, comments on L.I. Brezhnev's speech and notes that the USSR and the other fraternal socialist states reject the path of unilateral disarmament.

The signing of the Soviet-Afghan treaty in Moscow and the exchange of speeches between L.I. Brezhnev and N.M. Taraki, India's PATRIOT states, are events of truly great international significance.

Afghan Reaction

LD121215Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Kabul, 7 December, TASS--The official friendly visit by N.M. Taraki, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, to the USSR is at the center of the Afghan public's attention.

The newspaper KABUL TIMES front-pages the full text of the speech by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the Kremlin dinner honoring the important Afghan guest. The newspaper stresses that the Soviet-Afghan Treaty on Friendship, Neighborliness and Cooperation signed in Moscow is an outstanding political act that will not only further strengthen Soviet-Afghan friendship, but will serve the interests of Asian and international peace and security.

The newspaper ANIS writes that the Soviet-Afghan Friendship, Neighborliness and Cooperation Treaty marks the beginning of a new era in the history of Soviet-Afghan relations. The Afghan head of state's visit to the friendly Soviet Union, the newspaper notes, was an important landmark in developing and deepening friendship and neighborly cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet-Afghan treaty has been greeted with deep satisfaction by broad political, business and public circles in Afghanistan. A. Jalili, member of the PDPA Central Committee and Afghan minister of education, stated that the signing of this important document is regarded in our country as an event of historic significance. The Afghan minister particularly stressed that, speaking at the Kremlin dinner, L.I. Brezhnev described Soviet-Afghan relations as not simply neighborliness but deep, sincere and lasting friendship, permeated with the spirit of comradeliness and revolutionary solidarity.

JAPANESE GENERAL'S VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA EXAMINED

LD130012Y Moscow Tass International Service in Russian 1615 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

["Militaristic Voyage"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 12 December--TASS commentator Leonid Zhegalov writes:

Four countries of Southeast Asia--Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia--have only just become the objects of attention for a high-ranking Japanese military representative. Lt Gen S. Nagano, chief of staff of the Japanese Ground "Self-Defense Forces," has completed a trip to these countries where he discussed "the political and military situation in the area."

Rarely has a Japanese official's foreign trip received such scant coverage in the Japanese press as did the present voyage by one of the leaders of Japan's military ministry. This led observers to suspect that Tokyo is trying to weave a plot aimed at drawing this area not only into its economic-political but also into its military orbit behind the backs of the peoples of Southeast Asia.

S. Nagano's trip was made following the session of the Japanese-American consultative commission on a security treaty. The session approved "the basic principles of Japanese-American defense cooperation." This document provides for the rebirth of Japanese militarism and defines, as the paper AKAHATA put it, "Japan's auxiliary military role and tasks in U. S. Asian strategy."

It is well known that behind this strategy are attempts by the United States to impart a military direction to the activities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which includes countries visited by S. Nagano. These attempts, however, undertaken "without beating about the bush" have not produced results. Does the United States now not want to make an "evasive maneuver" by enlisting Tokyo to fulfill its designs? And isn't the Japanese magazine SIRKAITO writing about Tokyo's agreeing to the role alloted to it when it stresses that certain "successors of the Samurais" are proposing to spread the functions of the "Self-Defense Forces" right up to the Malacca Straits?

Observers in Southeast Asia have also drawn attention to the fact that S. Nagano's trip was the first visit by a high-ranking Japanese military figure to Southeast Asia in the past decade--following the conclusion of the Sino-Japanese "Treaty on Peace and Friendship" which, as the president of the Philippines, F. Marcos, said, has complicated the situation in Asia and the Pacific. It is not by chance that precisely at the same time as S. Nagano was making his trip, M. Kusumaatmadja, Indonesian minister of foreign affairs, stated that a combination of Japanese technology and the gigantic human resources of China represented a serious challenge to Southeast Asia and was a reason for concern in this area.

Attempts to throw together military alliances, whatever kind they might be, for which the Japanese general has been voicing his support, contradict the aspiration of the peoples of Southeast Asia to turn this area into a zone of peace, independence, freedom and neutrality.

INDOCHINA

RESISTANCE TO POL POT-IENG SARY REGIME GROWING

LD130945Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Hanoi, 9 December, TASS--A delegation of the National United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea Central Committee headed by Heng Samrin, chairman of the front's Central Committee, has visited a region recently liberated from the reactionary regime's forces, the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY reports. At the rally which was held, Heng Samrin urged the region's population to unite, join the ranks of revolutionary organizations and coordinate closely their struggle with the struggle by all the country's people to overthrow the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. "Long live the National United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea" and "The revolution will triumph," the rally participants chanted.

The Kampuchean people's resistance to the bloody regime is growing. As the KAMPUCHEAN NEWS AGENCY has reported, the inhabitants of another two districts--(Solong) and (Krotemia)--in Kompong Cham Province have risen in struggle. They have resisted forced recruitment into the reactionary regime's army and so-called "social work." The formation of armed forces for self-defense against possible punitive operations by the Phnom Penh army has begun in a number of regions.

PHAM VAN DONG DISCUSSES SRV'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

LD121736Y Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Jakarta, December 12, TASS--The reason for the worsening of Vietnamese-Chinese relations is not in the problems of ethnic Chinese living in Vietnam and not in border issues but in the openly hostile policy of the Peking leaders in respect of Vietnam, it was stated by the Vietnamese prime minister, Pham Van Dong.

This policy, he said in an interview to the newspaper MERDEKA, points to Peking's intention to further press for the attainment of its hegemonistic plans. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is ready to facilitate the establishment of firm-friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. But the solution of all bilateral problems depends entirely on the Peking authorities.

The border conflict with Kampuchea, the prime minister went on, was provoked by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique on the instruction and with the [word indistinct] of the Peking leaders. For this reason, the Kampuchean people rose against the antinational and treacherous policy of the Phnom Penh regime.

Vietnam is continuing the search for ways of reaching a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Kampuchea. We are confident that the time will come when justice and traditional friendship between Kampuchea and Vietnam will be restored, stressed the head of government of Vietnam.

As to Laos, he said, Vietnamese-Laotian relations are imbued with a spirit of mutual assistance and the interests of national development in both countries. Proceeding from the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, Pham Van Dong said, the two countries signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

The prime minister emphatically rejected assertions that the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty is a military alliance. The treaty, he said, is aimed at strengthening friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at consolidating international ties. Vietnam's foreign policy also pursues the aim of developing and strengthening relations with all countries of southern Asia. Our policy testifies fully to loyalty to the ideals of the nonalignment movement.

Touching on Vietnamese-Indonesian relations, the Vietnamese head of government noted the striving of both sides to consolidate long-term cooperation in various branches of the economy.

Discusses CEMA Membership, Cambodia

LD051438Y Moscow TASS in English 1410 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, December 5, TASS--Vietnam is a socialist country and its accession to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is perfectly natural, it was stated by the prime minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Pham Van Dong. This step, he said in an interview to the Indian newspaper MAINSTREAM, gives the Vietnamese people broad scope in the building of an independent, sovereign and socialist state. It also creates favourable conditions for the development of Vietnam's economic relations with other countries of the world. Both Vietnam's accession to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Vietnamese-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation do not contradict the policy of nonalignment. This treaty is not a military union as it is alleged by forces hatching hostile plans vis-a-vis the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and slanderously accusing Vietnam of departure from the policy of nonalignment, Pham Van Dong stressed.

He noted that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam would go on doing everything possible to consolidate the nonalinement movement in the struggle against imperialism and reaction, colonialism and neocolonialism, for peace, national independence of the peoples. Furthermore, the prime minister stressed that there were favourable possibilities for developing Vietnamese-Indian relations of friendship and cooperation.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is exerting great efforts to develop its relations with the ASEAN countries. Vietnam's relations with Japan have good prospects, the prime minister pointed out. However, he stressed, it is necessary to be vigilant vis-a-vis the Japanese-Chinese treaty, taking into account the policy of great-power expansionism and hegemony, pursued by the Peking authorities. The main reason for tension in Vietnamese-Chinese relations, Pham Van Dong said, lies in the policy of expansionism and hegemony, pursued by Peking vis-a-vis Socialist Vietnam. If the Peking authorities abandon their hostile activities, it will be possible to resolve the existing problems.

Touching on the situation in Kampuchea, Pham Van Dong noted that the dictatorial Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique was meeting growing resistance of the patriotic and truly revolutionary forces, which have risen up in arms against the barbarous regime, are upholding the right of the Kampuchean people to existence, their revolutionary cause. As to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, he said, we come out for the solution of all the problems of Vietnamese-Kampuchean relations through negotiations. Vietnam is confident that justice will triumph and friendship between the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples will be restored.

NEW JAPANESE CABINET WILL CENTER ATTENTION ON PRC TREATY

LD121441Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "Government Formed"]

[Text] Tokyo, 7 December--A change of government has occurred in Japan. Masayoshi Ohira, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], has been elected head of the new Cabinet. This evening he announced the composition of the Cabinet, which has been formed chiefly from new personages--representatives of various factions of the ruling party. An exception is Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, who held the same post in Fukuda's Cabinet. Ohira has appointed Kunikichi Saito general secretary of the ruling LDP.

As the Japanese press points out, Ohira's accession to power has occurred in a very complex internal and international situation. Newspapers draw attention to Japan's ever increasing economic difficulties connected with prolonged stagnation in the ranks of leading sectors of Japanese industry. Nor do local commentators ignore the progressive instability of the LDP's power, which has sullied itself in recent years with corruption, unscrupulous internecine struggles and the overt desire of a number of party leaders to revive anti-democratic, militarist usages in the country.

Many commentators agree that diplomatic problems connected with signing the deliberately anti-Soviet "Peace and Friendship Treaty" with Peking will find themselves at the center of attention for Ohira and his Cabinet ministers.

JAPANESE CP OFFICIAL CRITICIZES PRC'S FOREIGN POLICY

LD081125Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] Tokyo, 4 December, TASS--T. Fuwa, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party [JCP] Central Committee Secretariat, has condemned Peking's foreign policy course. A consequence of the Cultural Revolution in China, he said, addressing a Tokyo press conference, was the deformation of Peking's foreign policy course and the pursuit of a policy alien to the socialist movement. The chief distinguishing features of the policy are anti-Sovietism and support for military alliances in which the United States plays the chief role. As a result, China has become an active supporter of the military blocs it was condemning only 10 years ago. This has found expression in Peking's approval for the Japanese-U.S. "Security Treaty" and for the military might of Japan and NATO.

Another distinguishing feature of this course is the imposition upon Japan and other countries of the doctrine of armed struggle, which is the "Chinese method" of conducting revolution. The third characteristic of Chinese foreign policy is that the principle of attacks against and interference in the internal affairs of those parties that do not display solidarity with Peking and that do not follow Peking's lead has become firmly established in this policy.

Attention is attracted, T. Fuwa noted, by the fact that during the criticism of the "Cultural Revolution" which has now begun in China, no amendments are being made to the erroneous foreign policy which has had particularly pernicious effect on Japan. Moreover, the Chinese leaders have recently been making frequent attacks on the JCP, while at the same time making desperate efforts to establish close relations with U.S. imperialism and the Japanese ruling circles. The Peking leaders' statements and actions call into question the seriousness of the criticism being made in China of the "Cultural Revolution," T. Fuwa pointed out.

AUCCTU PRESIDIUM APPROVES RSFSR DRAFT STATE PLAN FOR 1979

LD122334Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] At an extended sitting today in Moscow, the AUCCTU Presidium considered the draft state plan for the economic and social development of the RSFSR for 1979. Participants in the discussion noted with satisfaction that the increase in work efficiency envisaged will make it possible to considerably improve the living standards of the population. Thus, it is estimated that real income will grow by 3.5 percent. More than 60 million square meters of housing and over 100,000 places in childrens' preschool establishments will be built. Health care, public education and culture will be further developed. Approving the draft in the main, the AUCCTU Presidium at the same time requested the republic's Gosplan to take into account the remarks and suggestions made today during its discussion.

REPUBLICAN CP PLENUMS, SUPREME SOVIET SESSIONS HELD

Shcherbitskiy Addresses Ukrainian CP

LD121520Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A Ukrainian CP Central Committee plenum was held in Kiev today. Under discussion were the results of this year's CPSU Central Committee November Plenum and the tasks faced by the party organizations of the republic stemming from its decisions and from the speech of Comrade Brezhnev. A report was delivered by Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukraindian CP Central Committee. He stressed that in Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech a profound and all-round analysis of the country's economic situation was made. It convincingly exposed the magnitude of successes achieved, and defined new tasks and ways of realizing them.

The economy of the Soviet Ukraine, the plenum participants noted, has risen to a new height since the beginning of the current 5-year period. More than R.3 billion worth of products has been turned out in excess of the plan. With each new year the gross grain output is increasing, as well as the production and procurement of other types of agricultural produce. At the same time it was noted that in a number of branches shortcomings and negligence still persist. In the decision adopted, the plenum participants unanimously approved and warmly supported the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum. They have assured that they will multiply their efforts in the struggle to fulfill the decisions of the 25th party congress.

The plenum also examined the drafts of the republic's national economy development plan and budget for 1979. A report on this question was delivered by Comrade Lyashko, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

Estonian CP Approves Plan

LD122108Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Estonian CP Central Committee plenum today discussed the tasks of the republican party organization arising from the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November Plenum and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech at the plenum.

Vayno, first secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee, made a report. It was noted that republican working people, under the party organization's leadership, were successfully implementing decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. Since the start of the third year of the 5-year plan, industrial output alone has gone up 3.5 percent compared to the corresponding period last year.

At the same time it was stressed that all reserves for raising production efficiency and labor quality have still not been brought into play. It is necessary to use labor resources and productive capacities better; it is necessary to persistently wage a struggle for savings and thrift, to adopt decisive measures to improve affiars in capital construction, the participants noted.

The plenum has reviewed and approved, in the main the drafts of the plan for economic and social development of the Estonian SSR and the republic's budget for 1979.

Latvian CP Plenum Held

LD122104Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A Latvian CP Central Committee plenum has opened in Riga. It is discussing the party organizations' tasks in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November 1978 Plenum and the theses and conclusions made in the speech by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Voss, first secretary of the Latvian CP Central Committee, delivered a report. He noted in particular that the period since the beginning of the current 5-year plan was an important stage in the republic's constructive activity. The growth in industrial output alone in the past 3 years compared with the corresponding period of the last 5-year plan amounted to R4.7 billion. Real income rose and the working people's standard of living improved.

The plenum also examined the draft state plan for the republic's economic and social development and the draft state budget for the fourth year of the 5-year plan.

Belorussian Supreme Soviet Session

LD122049Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Session ended in Minsk today. Its participants discussed plans for economic and social development and the republic budget for 1979. The main directions of the plan and the budget are subordinated to the task of further raising production efficiency as the main prerequiste for a further increase in the people's standard of living. The national income growth rates, achieved at the start of the 5-year plan, have been preserved. The national income will rise by 6 percent.

Comrade Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, took part in the session's work.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 11-12 DEC

LD120312/LD130343 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 11 December reports that machine operators in Orenburgskaya Oblast are at work following abundant snowfall. They will carry out snow retention on more than 5 million hectares.

At 1100 GMT the station says that in Saratovskaya Oblast snow has fallen and machine operators are carrying out moisture retention work where winter crops have been sown--an area of 600,000 hectares this year. Snowbanks are being formed on areas designated for spring crops.

In Belgorodskaya Oblast, the radio says, more than 90 percent of the seeds have been brought up to top sowing standard.

In Tomskaya Oblast, nearly half of the seeding machines, cultivators and plows and one-third of the combines have been repaired, according to the broadcast.

At 1600 GMT the station reports that in Turkmenia 1,014,000 tons of cotton have been gathered so far, representing 90 percent of the crop.

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1900 GMT reports that in the Ukraine nearly 2 million tons of spring crop seeds, excluding corn, graded first or second class, are in stock. This represents 90 percent of the seed stock checked.

At 1900 GMT on 12 December the station reports that in Uzbekistan the first few thousand tons of above-plan cotton were brought in during the day. Since harvesting began, more than 5.5 million tons of cotton have been delivered to procurement points.

CSA REPORTS SUCCESS OF GEORGIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PLAN

LD121456Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The USSR Central Statistical Administration has reported that the Georgian SSR agricultural workers have successfully fulfilled their socialist pledges for sales to the state of grain, first-class tea, and grapes, and that the potato sales plan has been fulfilled. Some 45 percent more wheat than planned has been sold. The plan for dispatch of potatoes to towns and industrial centers has been overfulfilled.

SPACEFLIGHT CAUSED 'FUNCTIONAL CHANGES' IN COSMONAUTS

LD122238Y Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 12 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 12, TASS--Physiologically Cosmonauts Vladimir Kovalenok and Aleksandr Ivanchenkov "are as healthy as they were before the spaceflight", Academician Oleg Gazenko, director of the Institute of Medico-Biological Problems, said in an interview to a correspondent of the Soviet youth newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

This does not mean, however, the scientist went on, that the record 140-day space flight did not cause "some functional changes. The cosmonauts lost a part of the muscle mass, which they have now restored. They returned to earth with erythrocytes that were born in space. The average life span of erythrocytes is 120 days, and they are fully renewed during this period".

The scientists said that "some changes have also been discovered in the cosmic erythrocytes: They displayed a tendency to have a smaller size though they fully retained the main function of carrying oxygen to the tissues. As time passes, the erythrocytes that were born in weightlessness will perish. But what will those that will replace them be like? Identical to those that were born before the space flight? Apparently yes, because our organism is a wonderful instrument of self-regulation: It excellently arranges all the processes, taking place in it, in such a way that they would meet the demands made by those conditions in which man is staying".

Oleg Gazenko was in charge of the programmes of research on artificial biological satellites of the earth that substantiated the possibility of manned space flight. He took part in the preparation of the first manned space flights. Oleg Gazenko was awarded the 1978 State Prize of the USSR for a cycle of studies on the medical substantiation and introduction of a set of methods and means of counteracting the unfavourable influence of weightlessness on the human organism that ensured the possibility of lengthy manned space flights.

SEISMOLOGISTS PREDICTED 7 DEC KURILE ISLANDS EARTHQUAKE

LD121135Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Dec 78 p 6 LD

[From roundup of PRAVDA and TASS correspondents reports: "Yesterday"]

[Text] There has been an earthquake in the region of the Kurile Islands. Its center was in the ocean, 30 km northeast of Shikotan Island. The force of the shocks reached force 9 at the epicenter and ranged between force 5 and 8 on the islands of Iturup, Kunashir and Shikotan. An earthquake of such force was registered in the South Kurile Islands 20 years ago.

A characteristic detail: This earthquake was predicted by seismologists of the Sakhalin comprehensive scientific research institute by means of observing the level of underground water as long ago as 2 December.

The earthquake caused some damage to buildings. There were no human casualties.